



THE IVERS

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Local Government Electors for the Parish of Iver, held at Iver Village Hall on the 4th March, 2019, at 8.00 pm.

Present: Cllr. Wendy Matthews (Chairman)
Cllrs. C Woolley, C Gibson, J Gill, A Mayling, C Jordan, B Lidgate, S Lidgate, G Bennett, N Harlow, J Bryson

P. Sullivan (Clerk to the Council), L. Morton (Communications & Community Engagement), M. Wilson (Assistant Clerk), M. Haley (Admin Assistant), PC Will Ranford, PCSO Roy Fisher (TVP), District Cllrs. Paul Griffin and Ray Sangster, County Councillor Luisa Sullivan and approximately 16 members of the public.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. K. Bembey, J. Kaushal and R. Gould. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Jilly Jordan (District Councillor), Andy Fryatt (IHLTC), The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP, Miss J Digweed (Iver Village Junior School), Peter Rowell (1st Iver Scouts)

2) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting on the 5th March, 2018 had previously been circulated, and copies were available for members of the public. It was:

RESOLVED: that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

In a change to the agenda it was agreed that the TVP Report would move to item 3 to accommodate the availability of the officers present.

3) THAMES VALLEY POLICE REPORT – Presented by PC Will Ranford

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) are decided by the Community Forum for the whole of South Bucks. This steering group is made up of members of the community and representatives from organisations across the area. The forum is not run by the Police although we do play a part. This allows us to speak to a good cross section of society and find out what you want us to do and how you want us to police your area. The top three priorities are chosen by the forum every three months and are actioned by your NHPT.

The three issues below have been identified as the areas of greatest priority by the community, as represented by the Community Forum. This group is made up of members of the community and representatives from organisations across South Bucks. It is not run by the police, although we are always represented. Every three months they meet to determine our priorities.

Priority One: Burglary

Every year, we see a rise in burglaries in the winter months, as the long nights provide burglars with greater opportunity to ply their wicked trade. After the successes of the autumn, we have

unfortunately seen burglaries return to the levels of the previous quarter - there were twenty dwelling burglaries this quarter. However, this does still represent a fall compared to the same quarter 2017-18, where there were 28 burglaries.

This quarter has seen a continuing focus on anti-burglary patrols in the southeast of the LPA, especially focusing on Denham and the Ivers, which has contributed to the general downward trend in burglaries seen across the year.

Unfortunately, we have also seen a worrying rise in “distraction burglaries”. This is where a person claims to be from a respectable body, like a water or electricity company, and says that they need to gain access to your house to deal with some emergency. Once inside, they may have their run of the place; alternatively, they may distract you while a friend enters behind them and steals goods. This kind of crime especially targets the elderly or vulnerable. Always double-check the identity of unexpected visitors, by asking to see their ID – a genuine visitor will have it with them, and they won’t hesitate to provide it. Anyone without ID should be refused entry.

The local neighbourhood teams have been conducting patrols in areas identified as high- risk. We have also been analysing the issues at commercial burglary hot-spots and working with the owners of large rural plots, looking at what makes their property vulnerable and helping them to reduce their risk of burglary.

Priority Two: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

In our newsletter last quarter, we talked about two persistent ASB issues which had occurred in the Iver area: specifically, a house in the area of Thorney Lane North which was allegedly used by drug users and littering and drug paraphernalia left in a lay-by in Richings Park. Targeted patrols not only work to resolve particular issues, they also have a knock-on effect on other crime types in the area. In this instance, there has been no recurrence of either case of ASB.

This quarter we have been focusing on a property near George Green which is alleged to be used for drug-dealing, drawing criminals to the area. With partnership working between the Neighbourhood team, the police Problem-Solving Team, and the housing association, we are looking to have the vulnerable occupant moved so that he can no longer be taken advantage of.

Priority Three: Speeding

Officers continue to conduct patrols and speed enforcement activities around the parishes. The festive period over the last quarter saw some people abuse their privilege to drive, and during general road patrols in support of this priority, fifteen people were arrested for drink or drug-driving. This is a very large increase on the previous quarter, which reflects people’s attitude to drink-driving over the festive and new year’s period. Of those who have already been to court, every single one has been disqualified from driving for a period of at least 12 months.

Additionally:

- One driver was prosecuted for driving whilst disqualified, after being seen by police to switch seats with the passenger after being pulled over.
- A 30-year-old woman failed to stop for police on Uxbridge Road, resulting in a pursuit. When she was finally caught and brought to the police station, she pretended to be asleep to try and avoid providing a sample of breath for analysis. She was given a 23-month driving ban for failing to provide a sample of breath for alcohol analysis, and failing to stop for police.
- A driver was reported for prosecution after failing to stop at the scene of an accident, following a collision with a cyclist at the junction of Denham Road and Church Road, Iver Heath.
- A driver was reported to court for using his mobile phone while driving. Police couldn’t issue him with a ticket at the roadside because he already had seven

points on his licence; he will go to court where he may receive six more, possibly resulting in a six-month totting ban.

Rural Crime Prevention Week: On 7th March between 10am and 1pm, we will be at Flowerland, Norwood Lane, Iver, to provide crime prevention advice to the rural community. We'll be talking about shed and outbuilding security, defensive planting (using prickly bushes, which are much nicer to look at than barbed wire!) and providing free tool marking services.

New team member: PCSO Alexandros Hatzi-Haralambous has successfully passed his tutorship period under the capable instruction of PCSO Roy Fisher. He is now independent and can be seen on his travels about the town.

Parking: Parking has historically been a topic about which we get a huge number of complaints, and this quarter is no different. Parking enforcement has also historically been something for which we were responsible – but no longer. Parking enforcement is “decriminalised” in South Bucks – this means that responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions has passed from the police to the local council, who employ a contractor, NSL, to give out penalty notices on their behalf. The police no longer have the power to issue penalties for most parking offences, including all yellow-line offences. The positive aspect to this change is that the police are unburdened of this responsibility, which affords us greater opportunities to focus on more stereotypical criminal behaviour. To report persistent parking issues, the most efficient communication is to NSL via their website at www.nsl.co.uk/contact, or contact Transport for Bucks at www.transportforbucks.net/Parking.aspx or by phone on 01494 478820.

There are a few parking offences for which we can still give out tickets: largely obstruction and parking on zig-zags. However, we are well aware of all the major problem areas, such as commuter parking in Richings Park and drop-off/pick-up times around every school in the area; issuing tickets for obstruction on a frequent basis. You can follow us on twitter at @TVP_ChiltSBucks to see what we get up to day-to-day, including the occasional picture of our worst offenders.

A team of offenders has been charged with a variety of offences across South Bucks and London, including a ram-raid at the Co-Op on Iver High Street which occurred in November 2018. A stolen Ford Ranger was driven into the front of the shop during a dramatic raid to enable burglars to gain access to the ATM; however, the burglars managed to knock over the ATM and then drive on top of it, stranding their vehicle and denying them access to the machine. All have been remanded and are awaiting trial.

A man from West Drayton has been charged with a number of offences following an armed robbery at the Co-Op in Iver Heath. The offender and another man entered the shop, one armed with a screwdriver and another with a sledgehammer and stole money from the till while threatening staff. Their vehicle was later involved in a pursuit with responding police officers. The man was charged with robbery, aggravated vehicle taking (the offence was aggravated because the vehicle was driven dangerously), driving whilst disqualified, driving without insurance, and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. He has been remanded in custody pending sentence.

The owner of a property on Pinewood Close, Iver Heath, has become the first person in the Thames Valley area to be prosecuted for destroying bat nests. The man pleaded guilty to two counts of destroying resting grounds of European protected species (namely, the Common Pipistrelle bat and the Brown Long-Eared Bat); he was fined £500 on each count, plus court costs of £125.

A 19 year old man has been charged with burglary following an offence on Mansion Lane, Iver. The same offender was also charged with three other burglaries across Slough and Surrey.

Two offenders have pleaded guilty to a burglary at Syke Cluan in Iver. The two men were caught on the roof of the property after police were called by vigilant neighbours. They are awaiting sentence.

A juvenile has been charged with shoplifting from the Co-Op on the High Street in Iver. When searched by police he was also found to be in possession of a small but unlawful knife. He awaits trial for both offences.

A man in Iver was charged for causing damage to a house and making threats to the occupants. Due to the seriousness of the circumstances of the offence, he received a sentence of six weeks' imprisonment for making threats, and four weeks for criminal damage, to run concurrently.

Two persons, each caught with a small amount of cannabis in Black Park, were given street warnings. The cannabis was seized and destroyed. Street warnings are low-level disposals introduced by government to allow police to deal proportionately with offences relating to the possession of cannabis and khat only. They can only be given to first-time offenders.

Another person was cautioned after being found with a small quantity of cocaine on Pinewood Road.

A fourth person was caught with cannabis close to Slough Road, Iver Heath. He was likewise given a street warning.

You can e-mail us at IverStokePogesWexhamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The Chairman thanked PC Ranford and asked if there were any questions, none were forthcoming and the officers left the meeting at 8.10pm.

4) CHAIRMANS REPORT

We are delighted that we have now got our community hub up and running with the Community library now operating on Wednesday morning hoping to extend the opening hours. Also, Citizens Advice Bureau and Bucks Connections are holding regular sessions. We have displays that can be viewed whenever the office is open. We had a centenary of WW1 exhibition of local information and artefacts, currently we have the Heathrow consultation documents and we shortly hope to display the items rescued from The Bull before it closed. We would love to host other local groups in the hub so do let us know if you are interested in using the space.

The Christmas lights were a wonderful display this year and we were very pleased that all the local shops and businesses were involved in the switch on event – once again the ponies with their lit-up tails were the stars of the afternoon! The Iver Village Junior and Infant School choir and Iver Singers really started off the Christmas season. We once again were able to make a donation to our local ambulance volunteer first responder team, and several homeless charities. Thanks are due to the working group of Councillors and the representatives from the Residents' Associations for all their hard work in putting it together and on the day as well as our many sponsors. Put the date for this year's event in your diaries – Saturday 30th November.

Our seniors coffee morning held once a month goes from strength to strength with a trip to the Cotswolds last summer and a wonderful Christmas lunch as well as several other activities. This is open to all so if you know anyone who would like some convivial company please encourage them to come along.

We have been working with Keep Britain Tidy who are being sponsored by Heathrow to carry out beautification projects in the area. So far we have worked with them to paint two amazing murals on Iver Heath Recreation Ground, designed and painted by the local young people, to plant the area round the clock tower in the High Street and provide the planters at the junction of Grange Way and the High Street.

We have a small fund to enable us to support local groups with grants and this year we have been delighted to be able to support among others Iver Heath Drama Club, Mobility Club, Richings Park Village Action Group, Iver Heath Brownies and St Margaret's Church. Please apply....

The new children's playground at the Sports Club in Richings Park is now up and running and proving very popular and the Parish Council have taken over the maintenance of it as we do with the other playgrounds in Iver and Iver Heath.

As you will know, the Secretary of State has decided that there should be a new single unitary council created for the whole of Buckinghamshire to replace the current four District Councils and Bucks County Council. It will be called the Buckinghamshire Council. We do not have much in the way of detail about what this will mean for us as a Parish other than there will be no elections for the Parish Council this year – this will be delayed until the elections for the new council are held in 2020. Initially there will be three councillors representing the wards of Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park on the new Council. We do have concerns about the level of services we will receive here in the south from a council based in Aylesbury.

We work as closely as possible with other layers of local government and other partners and will continue to do so. We are active participants of the Iver Members Liaison Group alongside representatives from Bucks, South Bucks and business and we are currently trying to push forward the plan for phase 1 of the relief road.

We are pleased that a parish wide Air Quality Management Area has been declared and we will be working with South Bucks on an action plan.

There are many external challenges still facing us – however the HS2/Heathrow Express depot at Langley which would have had a big impact on us was cancelled which was good news. Consultations on the other projects abound - the M4 smart motorway project (which is due to commence later this year for our stretch) has an information event on 1st April at the Village Hall. The Western Railway Access to Heathrow (which will close Hollow Hill Lane permanently) is due for consultation later this year. The biggest impact on our Parish will probably come from the Heathrow expansion plans. There is currently a consultation (closes at midnight tonight) on the new areas for the flight paths. If this goes ahead we will suffer a significant increase in noise from aircraft flying over us and for those nearer the airport a constant noise from take offs and landings. The current proposals offer us no respite at all. In addition various sites across the parish are being considered for the developments displaced by the new runway.

The Grundon incinerator is currently being proposed to move nearer to us at the end of Old Slade Lane. This consultation is on 14th March at the Richings Park Sports Club.

The Slough expansion proposals are still being pushed and we have the Cemex site on North Park in operation. The Breedon cement works application for Thorney Sidings was approved despite the vigorous representations we made, which will add another 82 HGVs on our roads. The County Council's proposal to dump millions of tonnes of spoil on Thorney Park continue to move forward. The Parish Council responds to all of these consultations which can often be very technical. Our policy of objecting to all HGV generating proposals is central to our responses.

Our work is focused on what we can deliver locally and much has been achieved this year; our display demonstrates. My fellow Councillors will be going through some of these and plans for coming year

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all our staff for the hard work they do to ensure that the Parish is running smoothly. Sadly, our Clerk Perri has decided to move on to pastures new and we wish her well for the future.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Amenities Committee

Covers green spaces, the burial grounds, recreation grounds and their Pavilions and allotments. Much of the work is undertaken on an on-going basis such as the tree work programme and managing the recreation grounds, burial grounds and green spaces. This work involves proactive and reactive maintenance and development work identified to improve sites where possible. The Parish team of 4 manage the recreation grounds at Iver and Iver Heath, burial grounds and allotments.

This requires daily visits to the recs for litter picking, checks of play and leisure equipment and general maintenance taking several hours a day for each site. Work undertaken varies by season with activities such as mowing and marking pitches running throughout the season from August to June. The team are now also looking after the play area in Richings Park.

The green spaces managed by TIPC are:

Two larger sites at Hardings Row, Swan Meadow and three smaller sites at Mud Wharf, St.Leonards Mound and the wildlife area to the rear of Iver Allotments.

The work is undertaken at all sites by a combination of our in-house grounds maintenance team and Groundwork South. The TIPC team undertakes the general upkeep including managing the programme to manage knotweed, watering of new trees, inspecting benches, fences and gates. Groundwork undertake the conservation tasks agreed for each site to an agreed programme including managing activity of the volunteer group at Hardings Row.

The conservation work has continued at all sites to improve them as wildlife habitats and to encourage use by as many residents as possible. There is insufficient time to go through these programmes in detail here but the work is described in reports presented to each Amenities Committee meeting and TIPC would be happy to share these to anyone with a particular interest in these sites. Groundwork have been invited to prepare a programme of works for the coming year which will be discussed at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

All of the sites have had five-year management plans and these are coming to an end. An invitation to tender for producing plans for the next five years has been issued and it is hoped to have a supplier selected in Spring this year.

At Swan Meadow and Hardings Row there are issues with patches of knotweed and a programme has been put together to control and reduce the knotweed. This work will be on-going and during this work every effort will be taken to minimise the impact on users of the site.

Mud Wharf is an area where there are also issues with invasive species and pennywort in the river. Over the last year work has been undertaken to remove the pennywort and this will continue. An opportunity has arisen to undertake more work there which will be mentioned later.

Increasing community use of TIPC managed green spaces is an aspiration for the council and this year an event was held for schoolchildren at Swan Meadow which was very well-received and there are photos of the day on the display board. TIPC will be using social media, our website and In and Around to encourage the use of these spaces on their doorsteps.

BUT the green space TIPC are most concerned about is no longer theirs to manage.

Some of you may know TIPC have not had a lease nor a formal management agreement for Iver Heath Fields for some years but had continued to be involved in their upkeep and had an established relationship with Friends of Iver Heath Fields.

Clearly, the Pinewood development has had an impact on the Fields and the wildlife have been displaced as a result of the build despite efforts within the Pinewood plan to encourage bio-

diversity. In addition, the proposed removal from green belt under option 11 of the local plan proposes that the land may be suitable for a range or mix of uses including residential, offices, industrial, commercial or film related activities. The Ivers Parish council remains committed to retaining all of the fields as is and do not support this option in the local plan.

TIPC had expected to be able to reach an agreement with South Bucks District Council to secure a long-term management agreement. For this reason, this year a tree survey was undertaken and TIPC continued their relationship with the contractor who cuts and manages the Fields.

A number of meetings were held and SBDC as the landowner were asked to support TIPC in resolving some outstanding problems with access and drainage which involved Pinewood Studios land.

However, in late 2018 TIPC attended a meeting at which it was expected this discussion to continue and immediately the meeting opened TIPC representatives were told that SBDC had decided to take back the Fields under their control and the Chilterns Rangers would be used to manage the fields moving forward. An end date of the close of this financial year was given. In mid-December TIPC received an email informing us that this date had been changed and the end date was the end of the calendar year.

As the owners of Iver Heath Fields SBDC are within their rights to undertake these steps but be clear The Ivers Parish Council were committed to continuing their management of the Fields and would be willing to discuss resuming this management at any point.

Other areas within Amenities :

Both allotments (Iver and Iver Heath) continue to have high levels of occupancy but have a few spaces. To reassure anyone interested – if the plot is taken over TIPC will clear it and handed over ready to use. Tree surveys are planned at Iver Heath allotment and a programme of work may arise from this. Allotment holders will be informed of any work to be undertaken.

A contractor has been found to undertake the work on creating a car park adjacent to the Jubilee Pavilion and we are in discussion with them about the commencement of this process. This is a project that has been on the books for several years but stalled due to the lack of contractors willing to quote. This means that, hopefully soon, the hole surrounded by security fencing will soon be a thing of the past!

At Mud Wharf a cabling project is crossing the site and funds have been agreed in mitigation for the disturbance to the site. Groundwork's River Officer has advised TIPC throughout and has prepared the plan for work to be funded. This will focus on removal of invasive species and replacing the existing fencing.

Iver Heath Pavilion refurbishment is the next project to be kicked off. TIPC have met with the current users and held drop-in sessions. In these TIPC were told by many that they hadn't seen the shutters up for years.

The priority is the replacement of the changing rooms to make them fit for purpose and replace the heating system. Plans have been drawn up for presentation to users and the next Amenities Committee meeting of a proposed configuration.

In other areas of the building the work will be mainly decoration and furniture has already been purchased for the main room. Apart from the changing rooms there are no plans to change the layout of the building and this phase is about getting it back to a state where it can be used by the community.

The last area delivered by the Amenities Committee was the range of activities around the centenary of the end of World War One.

The intention was to pull together a series of activities to cover the whole of the Parish and these included:

- Silent Soldiers placed with biographies for individuals on our war memorials
- Placing poppies on key sites around the Parish
- Two of the larger 'tommies' in Iver and Richings Park.

- Poppy planting with the scouts in Swan Meadow
- Poppy planting by TIPC at St. Leonard's Mound
- Poppy seeds distributed to participating schools
- Creating two poppy paintings with the community – one of which was created by taking the canvas to children of Delaford Colts Football Club and local schools and the other by members of the community at events and in the community hub and Iver Heath Pavilion
- A display in the hub of medals, documents and items lent by councillors, council employees and residents.
- Creating a book of remembrance telling some of the stories of local people
- And in partnership with the Royal British Legion a beacon event was held on 11th November

As chair of the Amenities Committee I would like to thank Margaret Wilson for all she did to ensure all of these activities were delivered and also to my fellow councillors who volunteered to help at the Beacon event.

In the limited time here it is not possible to go in to everything Amenities do but can I say that the whole team continue to work tirelessly across all areas to maintain the facilities to the best of our ability. After the meeting I would be happy to answer any questions about Amenities that you may have not been covered here.

Highways & Infrastructure Committee

The Highways & Infrastructure Committee has direct responsibility for:

- Streetlamps on minor roads throughout the parish and the recreation grounds;
- Street furniture (village gates, benches, litter and dog waste bins and parish council noticeboards).

We monitor the speeds and numbers of vehicles on selected roads with our Temporary Speed Indicating Devices (TSIDs) and highlight any areas of particular concern to the Thames Valley Police.

We also monitor applications for HGV Operating licences.

We maintain a watching brief on the status of the highways, footways and rights of way, although the maintenance of these is the responsibility of Bucks County Council as the Highways Authority.

We were offered the possibility of assuming devolved responsibility for some aspects of highway maintenance, notably grass cutting, but the funds offered were simply inadequate and so we declined the offer.

Status of Highways & Footways

Defects in the roads and footways around the parish are best reported as they become an issue and we, together with many residents, do this online via Bucks County Council's FixMyStreet application. We encourage you to continue doing so to ensure that problems are logged. This obliges Transport for Bucks to check them out.

Each year about this time, I undertake a survey of all of the roads in the parish and report any problems. Whilst we still have issues, I have to say that the general condition of the highways has shown an improvement over the year, with some of the more serious, longstanding defects in areas such as Thorney Mill Road, parts of Langley Park Road and Slough Road having been resolved. TfB has recently confirmed its intention to resurface the whole of Langley Park Road and its continuation into High Street as far as Cecil Road in the next weeks together with Pinewood Road, Heathway and Glaisyer Way. Inevitably, this will cause significant disruption to traffic, but I hope that coping with the temporary inconvenience will be rewarded with greatly improved road surfaces. We provide a weekly update of forthcoming roadworks on the Parish Council website and we would encourage you to check there for news of potentially disruptive events.

The section of footway just to the west of the entrance to the CEMEX site on North Park has been in very poor condition for some time. We were able to secure some funding from the Local Area

Forum towards reinstating it and this work has been completed in the last couple of weeks. At the same time, we took the opportunity to install concrete bollards to prevent parking of HGVs.

Street furniture

During the year, our grounds staff have refurbished a number of benches around the parish, we have upgraded or replaced our public noticeboards and, in response to specific requests from residents, we have installed a number of new bins for dog waste.

One of the bus shelters on Bangors Road made redundant by the withdrawal of the No 3 bus service is being transferred to the bus stop in front of the Iver Village Hall.

HGVs

It goes without saying that excessive numbers of HGVs continue to blight our roads. The number of these vehicles based in The Ivers continues to increase. Unfortunately, as a parish council, we have no direct influence on sites from which HGVs operate. This is under the control of the Traffic Commissioners, who issue Operating Licences, and the District and County Councils in their capacities as planning authorities. We have made numerous attempts to persuade the planning authorities to take a more pro-active role in opposing the issue of O-licences, in refusing planning permission for new sites and taking enforcement action where no planning permission exists. However, so far, this has been largely unsuccessful.

We have taken an active role in expressing residents' concerns over the impact of particular developments on HGV movements. Unfortunately, we do not make the decisions on these matters and we have been frustrated by some of the decisions that have been made.

One positive development is that our proposal for a parish-wide Air Quality Management Area for The Ivers has now been approved by The Secretary of State. This means that enforceable policies can be introduced that limit atmospheric pollutants, of which HGVs are a major source. This will be a collaborative process involving South Bucks and Bucks County Council and the Parish Council. Policies might involve constraints on certain vehicle engine types, encouraging alternative means of transport and improving traffic flows. We won't eliminate the HGV scourge but the aim will be to ensure that the impact of atmospheric pollution on health and the environment is significantly reduced.

Parking

Inconsiderate parking creates problems throughout the Parish and is a particular issue in Richings Park with commuter parking. Work is proceeding on the design of the new station car park in Thorney Lane and, as part of that development, a controlled parking scheme is to be introduced. A recent consultation on the preferred options for the scheme has met with a good response from residents. We now await the outcome of that consultation and some firm proposals.

Streetlights

The Parish Council is responsible for some 568 streetlights on minor roads across the parish and on the Iver and Iver Heath Recreation grounds. The old lamps are expensive both to maintain and operate and so two years ago, we embarked on a rolling programme of replacements. During the year we replaced a further 78 lamps with new LED operated heads and we have now replaced about a quarter of all the lamps. These give improved light output together with reduced energy consumption and we have received positive feedback from residents in roads where they have been fitted.

In the next budget year, we are considering modifying our policy so that, rather than replacing all of the lamps in a given street in one operation, we may replace individual units when they fail. The savings that we make on repair costs should enable us to introduce the new lamps more rapidly.

Infrastructure Projects

We are all very much aware of the various infrastructure projects that seem destined for our parish. The consequences of the proposed third runway at Heathrow, together with more immediate possible changes in flight paths are of great concern to us. The Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH) will occupy large areas of land and involve the closure of Hollow Hill Lane. Bucks County Council is proposing to licence the dumping of 6 million tonnes of spoil in Thorney Park. The list goes on.

Your Parish Council devotes a great deal of time to attending meetings, reviewing documents, lobbying the District and County Councils and our Member of Parliament, and submitting comments on the various proposals. It remains to be seen what impact we achieve but, central to our arguments has been that, in the event that these projects go ahead, provision of a relief road (or roads) must be part of the deal. In all these consultations, we encourage residents to express their views. The number of responses is taken as a key measure of the strength of feeling on a particular proposal.

Litter

As a nation, we seem to be increasingly dropping litter. In the Ivers, we have a number of individuals and groups who work hard to pick up litter and so enhance the appearance of our streets and open spaces. I would like to express grateful thanks to all those who contribute to this effort.

Keep Britain Tidy is encouraging communities to have a spring clean by organising litter picks during the month of March. Recently, through the Heathrow Beautification Project, they have helped us by planting shrubs around the clock tower and providing plant tubs on the corner of Grange Way. We would like to take up the challenge of a spring clean. We are asking residents to join in by undertaking a litter pick in your own road, or even part of the road. Blue plastic rubbish bags can be obtained from the parish office. You can arrange to pick up litter at a time to suit you and then the bags can be left by the nearest litter bin for collection. With a relatively small effort from a large number of individuals, we can really make a difference to the appearance of our streets and take pride in them.

Finally, I would like to add my thanks for the support provided over the past year by all the officers in the Parish Office and to the Grounds Team.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee still meets on Tuesday, every 4 weeks and it is a public meeting. We have seen about 300 full planning applications since March last year. An increase over last year and some that are re-submitted more than once with changes, usually an increase in size. The PC can comment on design and layout, impacts on neighbours and traffic but decisions are taken at District.

My thanks to Martin Haley, the PC admin assistant who adds applications and decisions to agendas as they are posted by SBDC and manages committee papers.

SBDC and Chiltern have merged the planning service at Amersham though South Bucks planning committee meetings are still held at Capswood. Residents may attend meetings there to address Chiltern & South Bucks Planning Committee when at least ten letters of objection have been made to an application recommended for planning permission.

Back gardens continue to be divided to create new plots for small homes and some small homes are being extended to the limit. Both these situations cause distress to neighbours but are hard for TIPC to defend. Space for parking is always an issue, even where it is possible to park on driveways. This often means the entire front garden is paved over, altering the appearance of roads and contributing to a local increase in temperature.

Quick summary/update of some sites

The development at 19-21 Bathurst Walk has been revised to increase the number of apartments to 21 with an increase in parking spaces. The developers are resisting making a contribution towards affordable housing.

The development in Bangors Road South/ Evreham Close started last year and has not progressed.

Tower House is due for development and an application for 9 houses is with CSBDC. This replaces the earlier application for 21 flats.

The car sales showroom opposite the shops on Langley Park Road has permission to redevelop for 8 flats in two blocks.

The proposal by Bucks County Council (BCC) to permit the deposit of soils at Thorney Park met with total opposition when the developer declared that it would not be possible to retain the lake. Discussions at BCC to reach a compromise are ongoing but residents and TIPC remain opposed to the destruction of Thorney Park.

Land in and around The Ivers is under consideration for unspecified "airport related and/or airport supporting development". Already it has been announced that the Grundon EfW incinerator is to be relocated to land between the M4 and A4 just south of Richings Park.

Local Plan and The Ivers Neighbourhood Plan

The Chiltern & South Bucks Local Plan is expected to be published for consultation in the summer when The Ivers Neighbourhood Plan will follow.

The Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire generated over 400 responses and there are now Councillors working on ideas for Green Belt, Open Spaces, Heritage & Trees; Retail & High Street redevelopment; Community Facilities, Housing and Evreham; Traffic & Industrial sites.

It is not possible to stop all development and some of that development will be on Green Belt in the Colne Valley Park. There will be new homes but as yet there are no numbers available. A neighbourhood plan is a means to put your views on what sort of development would be acceptable, where it should go and what else will be needed to support the increases in population.

There have been meetings with residents of Richings Park, Iver Village and Iver Heath; also with representatives for the land identified by CSBDC as development site options and with three of the four schools, the surgery; with Colne Valley Park and the Canal and River Trust.

From the questionnaire

There is overwhelming support for retention of Green Belt and tree protection. Open spaces are valued for their recreational value and wellbeing. Parking is seen as a problem whether it's in residential roads or close to shops. Unfortunately there are just too many cars.

There is support for development of Thorney Business Park for some housing, affordable and social housing was mentioned.

Traffic is the main concern, particularly HGV traffic, with a relief road a high priority. Poor air quality is increasingly recognised as a problem.

Iver High Street as a retail centre is perceived to be blighted by traffic and lack of parking provision.

When themes and options have been developed there will be meetings for residents to comment and make their views known. Policies will follow to help direct the way development happens and to ensure that some improvements result from development.

Colne Valley Park

The Heritage Lottery Funding projects are ongoing and a Green Infrastructure Strategy is being developed with Arup to cover the Colne and Crane Valleys. Both will be affected by Heathrow expansion.

Iver is due to gain a permissive Right of Way leading from the Church, across the field to the river under the M25 and connecting to BW30 and Ford Lane.

Other matters

Volunteers in Iver continue to help improve the villages. I would like to thank them all. Again Ivers Scouts have volunteered help and residents' groups make regular litter picks in Iver Heath and Richings Park. Individuals also help to clear paths, litter pick and plant bulbs and shrubs.

The patches of purple crocuses on verges are thanks to the Rotary Club of Langley and Iver who provided the corms 2-3 years ago as a publicity and fundraising campaign to eradicate polio in developing countries.

There is a small regular team who work each month at Hardings Row clearing, cutting back and helping to maintain the site for wildlife. Ad hoc clearing of some Rights of Way paths is also done by volunteers.

Policy and Finance Committee

The details of our current income and expenditure for this year until the end of February have been circulated. These demonstrate the focus of our work on the recreation grounds, open spaces and street lighting.

We have this year been able to keep the increase of the Parish element of the Council Tax to 2.99% in line with the other authorities to enable us to continue to meet the rising costs, another 25% this year, relating to the Bucks CC local government pension deficit. However, the significant increase for the Policing element will see our Council tax increase overall this year.

We have reviewed all our policies this year and have amended our standing orders and financial regulations as changing legislation has required us to do. We have introduced a number of new policies relating to the environment and guidance on the use of drones over our land. We have put in place the necessary procedures to ensure that we are compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations. In all of this we obtain guidance from the National and Buckinghamshire Associations of Local Councils.

5) SPORTS CLUB/OTHER REPORTS

Bowls Club – Presented by Elizabeth Hemsley

I am Elizabeth Hemsley and for the last 10 years I have had the pleasure of being the Secretary of the IHBC. I say a pleasure as that is truly what it has been. Like many folk of my age I live on my own, and I think you will agree one of the saddest feelings we can experience in life at any age is that of loneliness.

I was encouraged to join the Bowls Club originally by a neighbour who herself was a member. My pleas of not being 'sporty' or 'competitive' fortunately fell on deaf ears, she was determined – I was going to join!

For those of you who are unaware the Bowls Club lies behind an enormous hedge in the recreation ground of Iver Heath. I don't know why we are so secretive, hopefully we can change that because if you were to venture through those tall metal gates you would find probably one of the nicest spaces in this our village.

We are open to new members and you don't have to know how to bowl because we have two very good coaches who would be quite willing to teach you – free of charge. There are woods that you could borrow until you felt that this could be a sport that you would like to take up so all you would need to try it out is some flat soled trainers or shoes.

Should you decide to join as a new bowler we make a concessionary reduction of 50% for the first years fees.

We play friendly weekend games between other Bowls Clubs – never too far away – Gerrards Cross; Stoke Poges and Richings Park. These are followed by a light meal so that can be time spent not only with our members but also members from other like minded clubs.

We also play midweek games, some more competitive than others along with inter club and County games. This year some of our members went on to play in County games representing Bucks in the Bowls England finals which are held in Leamington every year. These are the truly competitive bowlers amongst our membership, but it is always up to you how competitive you want to be.

Did I sound as if you have to be of pensionable age to play – this is what we need to change. Bowling is not just for the elderly it is for all ages, all abilities are welcome.

Our season begins in April and goes on until late September, during the winter season we play short mat indoors on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evenings. Friday we have bingo sessions and alternate these with line dancing and you don't have to join in its just great fun to watch.

We are holding an Open Day on 5th May this year, you would all be most welcome, come along and see what I mean. Did I mention we have a very nice bar? Even more reason to become a bowler!

The Chairman gave her thanks to Ms Hemsley and there being no other clubs present moved on to the next item.

6) PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Chairman then proceeded with a number of Community Awards. These are awards presented on behalf of the Parish Council to individuals who have contributed significantly to community benefit on behalf of all residents of the parish.

- a) Joyce Young – in recognition of her work as a Governor at Iver Village Infants School.
- b) Jane Brown – in recognition of her work on the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- c) Shantanu Tandon – in recognition of his work with the Richings Park Village Action Group.
- d) Lauren Wilson – in recognition of her work on our behalf for the WW1 Centenary.
- e) Trustees and Volunteers of the Evreham Centre – for their work on the Youth Group which has proved incredibly popular and now has a waiting list.
- f) Pankaj Shah – on his retirement this is awarded in recognition of his work as local chemist to the residents of Richings Park.

7) GENERAL DISCUSSION AND QUESTION TIME

The Chairman then invited open discussion and question time.

Martin Sands wished to draw attention to two matters – he was glad to hear about the streetlight replacement programme but was concerned that one streetlight on The Parkway had not been functional for approximately two years. The state of the footpath is such that it has become a trip hazard without adequate footway lighting in place. Cllr. Jordan said that he will inspect and report to the next Highways & Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Mr Sands is also very concerned about the double bend access on The Parkway (Crooked Billet end) which he considers to be a dangerous, blind bend. He suggested that double yellow lines on the bend and work to reduce the kerb would address the problem and urged the Parish council to lend their support in taking this matter to the relevant authority. Cllr. Jordan suggested that he have a

meeting with Mr Sands and the Chairman suggested that he take this matter to the Local Area Forum as officers from TfB are usually in attendance.

Cllr. Sangster asked if there are any further developments regarding work on the Five Points roundabout and Sevenhills Road. The Chairman had no further update but is attending a meeting of the Iver Members Liaison Group (IMLG) tomorrow and if any more information is available, she will circulate. Alan Wilson then asked how information from meetings of the IMLG gets fed back to communities. The Chairman responded that the discussions at the IMLG are in the main treated as private but that some are reported via the Highways & Infrastructure Committee where appropriate. Fiona Gill asked if we could confirm when the planters on the corner of Grange Way will be moved into a more effective position to stop cars parking on the verge. The Chairman clarified that the planters were installed by a contractor appointed by Heathrow/Keep Britain Tidy and the council was not consulted prior to installation about the location of the planters. Our groundsmen had attempted to move them, however it transpires they are anchored into the ground. The Chairman has contacted the relevant contact at Heathrow and is awaiting further update.

Kevin Logan-Brown asked the Chairman if the council had any comment to make regarding a recent article on the MailOnline website which made mention of one of the Parish Councillors. The Chairman confirmed that this matter had nothing to do with the Parish and there was therefore no comment to make.

Leigh Tugwood asked if, in light of the BCC elections being postponed, the Parish Council have any idea of function going forward. The Chairman responded that this information would not be confirmed until after the official orders had been laid.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

Chairman.....Date.....