

NOTE of a meeting of the Committee of Iffley Fields Residents' Association held on Monday 13th September, by Zoom.

Present: Christine Hogg (in the Chair), Ben Pinches, Simon Fisher, Samantha Robertson, Barbara Ashcroft, Sue Hale, Denise Cullington, Thelma Martin (minutes).

Kay Millar, Aeron Laffere, Mark Pliesing, Oliver Sterck. Alexandra Harris, Maria Pocock, Susan Bedford, Tim Oliver. Janey Carline. Councillors Damian Heywood and Chris Jarvis

1. Apologies were received from Luke Bolton, Ruth Ashcroft, Jon Rees, Janet Hall.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th July were accepted as correct, save that Sue Hale was not a school governor of SMSJ.

3. Co-options to the Committee: Kay Millar and Emily Kerr were co-opted, nem.con.

4. Matters arising:

a) Children's playground flooding: In the absence of Jon Rees. Cllr Jarvis reported that he was having lengthy discussion with Oxford Direct Services over the issues raised.

b) Car sharing: This scheme has got off to a promising start with much local interest expressed.

c) School run traffic reduction: The aim was to keep cars away from school gates, and a "School Streets" pilot was taking place at Larkrise, which like Ss Mary and John is in a cul-de-sac. The project needs quite a lot of volunteers to run it and marshal traffic, but Cllr Heywood was optimistic about the outcome. When shown to be successful, it would be run out at other schools including Ss Mary and John.

d) Neighbourhood Watch: There have not been, so far, any groups showing interest in running small local schemes.

5. Sub-groups updates:

a) Waterways: Thanks were expressed to all who filled in the survey. Funding has been obtained, £2,500, for a publicising event to be held before the weather becomes too cold, probably at Long Bridges. Cllr Wolff suggested setting up a "Friends of the River" group, Oxford-wide or possibly more far reaching. There would be a meeting on Wednesday 15th September, to include the "sewage" group, to start this off. A lot of interest has been shown in use and state of the river. The City Council has now appointed a Waterways officer.

The Ferry Lane path to the river alongside Falcon Rowing Club has been shown to be public Land, despite Falcon's assertion that it was not. (Thanks to Cllr Wolff for this) There is pressure to have it restored as a footpath, but it was agreed to treat the matter as delicate as there was no wish to antagonise Falcon.

ACTION; Ben will update the Falcon, and see if the type of fencing for the path had been decided, following concerns about wildlife being trapped in plastic site fencing.

b) Friends of Meadow Lane Rec. (IFRA Parks)

Denise Cullington reported that local consultation had produced concerns that trees along the edge of the Lane would make the area more enclosed at night, when its open aspect was appreciated by dog-walkers.

The first phase of the Rec. plan was to set out 2 small groups of shade trees, possibly birch.

National Lottery funding had been obtained for tree planting if the sum of £2,500 plus £500 for

bulbs and seeds. Cones and logs had already been put out to allow local views on where they would be best sited.

Christine Hogg suggested a more strategic approach should be adopted as to where activities which had been suggested for the field might go, even if action was not immediate. This would affect phase 2, siting of sports equipment (basketball hoops, outdoor gym, table tennis table, sports pitches etc.) should go. Those interested in having the facilities would be welcome to plan this. Jon Rees (pitches) and Eleanor Blyth (boules) might find colleagues for this purpose.

Denise had been contacted by a resident keen to extend the Meadow Lane “Guerilla Garden”, and Goodgym were coming on 22nd September to clear nettles.

Two “live” consultation events would be held on the field, one at 4pm of Friday 8th October to catch parents and children leaving the school, and another at 4pm on Sunday 10th October, Ben, Sue, and Barbara will assist with publicising the event. Maria Pocock also offered to deliver leaflets,

c) Planning: Nothing of particular note other than rear garden extensions had been submitted recently, but there was Iffley Road development of an existing shed into a building larger than the shed’s footprint behind Stratford Street gardens, which was on top of a badger sett. It was suggested that the Oxford badger Group be contacted and **(ACTION) Ben** to give the reference no. to **Cllr Jarvis** who will check the plan is present with the planning department. (It seems to have vanished from the website)

Thelma hoped to attend the Residents Forum on planning on 17th September.

d) Air Quality Subgroup: Kay Millar reported that this group had been checking for particulates both small chemical ones (the more dangerous) and larger physical examples. They had been out seven times since 3rd August had had taken pleasing low readings, apart from one at the junction of Jackdaw Lane and Iffley Road on Saturday 4th September, which may have been an anomaly. The group will continue to monitor and expect changes as the winter draws on and fires and stoves are lit.

6: Reports from street connectors: Simon Fisher reported concern over the Kidneys Gate -the gap was large enough to admit unauthorised vehicles after the repairs. Samantha Robertson queried whether it was still OK to issue “No Cold Calling” stickers and was assured that it was. She also relayed a report of river traffic exceeding the speed limit.

7. AOB: Christine Hogg had received a suggestion of a defibrillator for Iffley Fields, but where it might be placed and who trained to use it would be a matter for further discussion. There had been a complaint of front garden foliage being allowed to overhand the path forcing pedestrians into the road, The next “Fields” might promote pruning!

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Thelma Martin