
NOTE of a meeting of the Committee of Iffley Fields Residents' Association, held on Monday 14th September 2020 by Zoom

Present: Simon Fisher, in the Chair

Jon Rees, Christine Hogg, Ben Pinches, Samantha Robertson, Janet Hall, Barbara Ashcroft, Thelma Martin, Ned Wells,

Cllr Richard Tarver, Cllr Steve Curran, Cllr Damian Haywood,

Apologies: Sue Hale,

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September were accepted as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising:

- The Fields – Mari was producing this, but it was now overdue. Christine agreed to contact Mari to find out when it would be ready offer help.
- Bins outside the Kidneys- There was no money in the Council's budget for this and in times of such difficulties and cuts this was not a priority for the funds available to individual councillors. Jon enquired whether if IFRA could raise the funds, the Council would take on responsibility for maintaining it. Cllr Tarver thought the cost would be about £4000. ACTION: Cllr Tarver to ascertain the cost from officers as a fundraising target.
- Safe Space summer event – This was considered to have been a great success with thanks to Ben for organising it. It had felt safe and there was a good atmosphere. It was agreed that this should be an annual event. Next year it was important to advertise more widely before the event and to follow up with photos afterwards. It was noted that a report of the event will be included in the copy of the Fields.
- Kidney's fence: Cllr Tarver had reported this to the appropriate officer and it had been referred to the department for repair.

3 Waterways sub group

Ben reported that the group had decided not to appoint a chair but allocated areas to members. Dave Gasca was undertaking some mapping, Ned and Samantha were following up on safe bathing areas and pollution.

Ned reported that the Labour Group supported the proposal for a safe swimming area but at this time would not give it priority. However, Cllr Linda Smith was hoping to gain support for it at as cross-party motion and a petition, which now had over 2000 signatures, would be presented to the next meeting. This had the support of the councillors present. It was noted that at present no river had safe bathing status yet and it would be a long process.

4 Planning sub group

Proposed development of meadow in Iffley: There was a proposal by Donnington Hospital Trust to sell the land to develop 45 houses. There was a petition organised opposing this. Though outside our area, it would disrupt the wildlife corridor. No planning application had yet been received. It was agreed to contact the Friends of Iffley Village and monitor this closely.

Irving Building – It was reported that seemed to be a community tension between some parents in Iffley Fields, Comper School and the new owners of the site (MRC) regarding changes to the plans on

a church and housing development. It was agreed that IFRA should be cautious in taking a view on this as there was a risk of exacerbating community tension and could be outside our remit.

5 City Council consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders

It was noted that this was not particularly controversial but that there was still time for people to comment by 18 September.

6 Issues raised by Street Connectors:

- Traffic management in East Oxford - Information on this was available on the Oxford County Council website under Active Travel, phase 2. A bid had gone into the Government for funding and a decision should be known at the end of September. There had been no local consultation.
- Jumble Trail –There was a proposal to have a ‘Jumble Trail’ on Sunday 18 October, where residents could put out their unwanted stuff for free or for sale, with some proceeds going to charity. IFRA had given its support to this event but there was concern about the risks of COVID transmission and that it might not be necessary as some residents did this individually. IFRA agreed that if new infection rates go above 50 new cases a day in Oxford City, or if the organisers felt the risk became too great, it should be postponed.
- Bench for Meadow Lane- It was recognised that there would be no funding from the Council for this, but there was possibility of crowd funding for a bench. Jon agreed to prepare a proposal and Richard agreed to check with the Council officers about their position on this.

The meeting closed at 20.10

The next meeting is on November 9th 2020

Dates for meetings 2021:

Monday January 11th
Monday March 15th (AGM)
Monday May 10th
Monday July 12th
Monday September 13th
Monday December 13th
