



Crowthorne Village Action Group

CVAG protecting our village against urbanisation

THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

The 10th Annual General Meeting of The Crowthorne Village Action Group was held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 starting at 7.30 pm. at Woodmancote House, Crowthorne.

PART 1 - MINUTES OF THE AGM

1. Registration and apologies for absence.
 - 1.1 There were 37 persons attending.
 - 1.2 These included the full 9 Committee Members [John McNab, Eddie Lyne, Carole Doran, John Baster, Andy Holley, Suzanne Hines, Janet Rogers, Graham Elliott and Steve Bolton]
 - 1.3 Also present was a representative from each of Charles Church and Norwood.
 - 1.4 It was unfortunate that the CVAG AGM coincided with the CPC AGM so it goes without saying apologies were acceptable from all the Councillors. Specifically Bob Wade had responded individually. In addition the following apologies were recorded via notification to the Secretary: Simon Butterworth, Ken Newland, John Ebdon and Madge Lyne

2. Comments by the Chair.

John McNab, the CVAG Chairman for 2017-8 introduced himself and announced a warm welcome to all present. John commented on CVAG objectives including that we worked on major developments but there was always a pressing need for each member to comment on individual plans.

3. Minutes of the 9th AGM held on 2nd May 2017
 - 3.1 Accuracy. With no corrections to note, Jean Searle moved adoption of the minutes, seconded by Barrie Searle and agreed without further comment.
 - 3.2 Matters arising. It was observed that there were no matters arising to be brought forward from the minutes that could not be dealt with under other items on the Agenda

4. Hon. Secretary's report of the work of CVAG for 2017/18.
 - 4.1 Carole Doran the Secretary of CVAG read from her annual written report, text as follows:
 - 4.2 It's been a busy year for us at CVAG, with lots of new development all over the village.
 - 4.3 Members of the committee continue to attend stake holders' meetings for various developments in the village. The most recent was a meeting at Broadmoor where we learnt that the Trust are concerned about the fact that nobody seems interested in developing the old hospital buildings which are listed and cannot be pulled down. Indeed, these buildings are historically important, and we can only hope that a new use is found that is acceptable to everyone. Is anyone surprised that nobody is interested in buying what was built as a prison and is right next door to the new secure mental hospital?

The owners, the West London Mental Health Trust, are keen to get permission to build 200 houses in the historic walled garden. The draft Local Plan does identify it as a potential site for development, but this is subject to the safeguard that it does need to be considered through the correct procedure for approval, rather than it just being accepted as already agreed. This is a Grade2 listed historic landscape and any proposed new development will need to show some exceptional benefit before being approved.

In May I visited the new hospital. It is hoped to move the patients sometime this year. The delay has been because they must get the new building as safe as possible now because they can't work on things once the patients are in place!
 - 4.4. We get various invitations to inspect sites and to see what is going on in the village. For example, we visited the new theatre that the College is building, and we visited the Re3 recycling centre in Reading to see what happens to all our recycling. We get regular invitations to go to Buckler's Park and were at the opening of the Sales Centre. We hope to visit the new modular building on the site

soon so that we can report back to all our members about it. Apparently, it is difficult to find enough workmen for sites now with all the development going on, and one proposal is that modular buildings would solve the problems as they are manufactured off site and transported in for speedy erection. Anyone who was caught up in the traffic jam when they brought one house in will maybe wonder what it would be like if lots of modular houses were brought in on the local road system!

- 4.5. We were pleased to be invited to the Civic Service held by the Mayor which was in the Wellington College Chapel on possibly the hottest day of the year. This was a privilege.
- 4.6. We also continue to attend bio-diversity meetings and last year our chairman spoke about our work at one of these.
- 4.7. We have spoken on various topics with various people throughout the year since we last met, including a student from Wellington College who was doing work on Land Allocation and planning issues, a representative from McCarthy and Stone about a burst water main, Legal and General about their phase 1 and phase 2 developments on the site, and a representative from McCarthy and Stone about the contractors vehicles turning into and out of Copenhagen Mews which was causing a problem for residents. We met with the developers of the Mango Tree who assured us that they will build the new flats in keeping with the conservation area, and we also reassured a resident who said he had heard that all the new houses on Buckler's Park would be housing association which was of course just a rumour.
- 4.8. Much of our work concerns looking at planning documents and studying the new Bracknell Forest draft Local Plan, which sets out the plan for new development until 2034. We have had several issues that we commented on. Our main concerns included loss of the strategic gap between Crowthorne and Bracknell, with a proposal to put 570 homes at the land currently occupied by the Hideout. We looked at the document called the SHEELA where possible land sites are shown for future development and then the draft Local Plan which shows more detail. We raised several of our concerns with the Crowthorne Parish Council and managed to get some concerns on their agenda for discussion e.g. the list of Brownfield sites for Bracknell Forest, which was incorrect, and which we got changed, and the matter of pollution in the High Street which is already past the legal limit for Nitrous Oxide and is thus a serious health hazard.
- 4.9. We are pushing to get the strategic gap reinstated between Bracknell and Crowthorne which has conveniently been left out from the list of gaps between settlements in this document [that is convenient for the Planning Dept. !] This will mean that Crowthorne and Bracknell will be joined together, and we will lose our village identity. The gap is also an important wildlife corridor and as such must be retained. We sent copies of our objections to Cllr. Jim Finnie and Cllr. Bob Wade as our representatives on the Council and were pleased to learn that Bob shares our concerns. Will there be actions to match those words?
- 4.10. Our next big campaign will be about levels of air pollution in the High Street. The levels of NO2 are already above the legal maximum and it will only get worse as new developments add new cars. This affects all of us. We want to see the council taking active steps to meet their statutory obligations. They have already suggested moving the bus stop at one end of the High Street to avoid traffic congestion. As far as I can see they have not mentioned exactly where they want to move it to though! It is essential that people coming on a bus have access to the High Street and it would be good to see positive promotion of the High Street by the Parish Council and the Borough Council.
- 4.11. We continue to contribute at meetings about the new Neighbourhood Plan. It would be wonderful if those of you who are interested and who are members of CVAG, could find time to help with the Neighbourhood Plan which will be an important document once it receives official status. You can find information about it on the Crowthorne Parish Council web site. It is encouraging that the group discussing this are using the original CVAG Village Design Statement as part of the documentation as a basis for information.
- 4.12. Legal and General will be making an application for their community hub next. We have attended meetings planning for this building and hope that it will be a good centre for the new development and for the whole of Crowthorne.
- 4.13. We watch comments on social media and post information on the various sites like Crowthorne Chaos and We Love Crowthorne. My favourite story was quite recently, when Legal and General were accused on Facebook, of wanting to build on the Hatch Ride school playing field. This turned

out to be a case of misunderstanding though because a teacher had set the idea as homework for the children to think about, and they had to give arguments for and against such an idea!!

4.14. Sadly, we still need more help on the committee. For us, it is important to do what we can to ensure that Crowthorne Village isn't seen as soft touch for inappropriate over-development. If that's important to you, please consider whether you can spare some time to work with us. It is not as arduous as you might think, and you can get involved in just as much as you have time for.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Financial Statement for 2017/18

5.1 The Treasurer, Eddie Lyne, presented the accounts for the year 2017/18. A copy is appended as Appendix A to the Minutes [available on-line as a PDF file]. He gave the Chairman and Secretary each a copy of the independent examiner's report, declaring that the presented accounts were accurate and satisfactory, and confirmed that the original had been placed in his files.

5.2. Copies of the Treasurer's written report had been distributed around those present and no additional comments were necessary.

5.3 There were no questions on any of the detailed figures of the accounts. John Baster moved adoption of the Accounts seconded by Suzanne Hines, and agreed without a vote.

6. Amendments of the Constitution.

It was noted that there have been no proposals for amendment of the constitution.

7. Election of Committee for 2018 - 19

7.1 On the closure date for nominations, 9 nominations had been received for 12 vacancies and therefore in accordance with the constitution no ballot was required. The following members were duly elected as the Committee to serve for 2018 - 19.

Andy Holley	Carole Doran	Eddie Lyne	Suzanne Hines
John Baster	John McNab	Graham Elliott	Steve Bolton
Janet Rogers			

7.2 It was once gain iterated that the Committee would welcome new blood. If anyone considers that they would like to contribute to relieve the workload of the elected Committee then just contact a Member of Committee to commence procedures. Also if anyone knows of someone that they think would be a useful recruit then notify a Committee member so that we may consider making advances to the nominee.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2018 - 19.

Alison Holden has indicated to the Treasurer her willingness to serve for a 5th year if requested. Formally, her nomination is at the bottom of the Treasurer's report. John Baster seconded the proposal. There were no other nominees. It was agreed nem con that Mrs. Alison Holden be asked to serve for 2018-19.

9. Any other business.

There had been no prior notification of any other business.

The Chairman declared the AGM closed at 8.05 pm.

Appendix A to the Minutes of the CVAG AGM 1st May 2018.

Click link below or go to our website to download.



Alison accounts 2017-18.pdf

PART 2 – NOTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

To follow the CVAG AGM the Chair opened a discussion session for any relevant matter that the Chair would accept.

1. This part of the meeting commenced with Andy Holley giving an explanation of the concerns that Crowthorne should have on local air pollution, A copy of his presentation is appended to these notes [available on-line as a PDF file]. The most significant aspect is that the pollution in the Crowthorne High Street is dangerous and close to the legal limits allowed under EU Law. The Council's figures published from 2015 to 2017 show the pollution worsening [surprise, surprise!]. The Council have not published an acceptable plan as to how this pollution will be contained as the traffic problems increase with the massive developments in and around Crowthorne. It is considered that a major contributory factor in the High Street is access. There may be enough car parking but traffic is hindered by delivery vehicles that force a change of speed of negotiating motors and that this is the likely source of much of the air pollution. [Remember the speed humps in the High Street were replaced by strictures because of this effect]. The prime suggestion for improvement by the Council over the years has been construction of a delivery road behind some of the shops, but this has proved to be a non sensible conjecture and NO real plans have been identified over the years. It is considered too late now with the development that has been permitted.

A number of members present made a number of tentative suggestions [e.g. plant more trees to remove noxious gasses, control delivery time more strictly and particularly to avoid school hours, persuade more cyclists] and there are many more ideas around, some good some silly. CVAG's prime argument is that the Council have the supposed experts and they should comply with the law and have a plan to control the air quality. It is unacceptable that the Council should not fulfil its legal commitment. CVAG will urge the Council to do better. Please, each individual join us to put pressure on the Council and to include pressure on our MP.
2. Emma Wilkinson representing the Norwood Charity gave a short explanation of plans for the future of the Ravenswood Village site. Basically the current Ravenswood buildings need to be completely upgraded to provide for modern requirements, and to maintain a vibrant sustainable community. The only way that they can manage to do this is to utilise the help [financial] of a developer who would be given permission to use part of the existing developed footprint to provide new commercial homes on the public market.

Norwood is working with Charles Church towards a planning application for 239 homes. They will hold a 'Community Communication' day on 23rd May from 1pm to 8pm if anyone wishes to see the current thinking. It is hoped that a formal plan will be brought forward in 2019.

Those present appeared very sympathetic to the aims of the charity but reserved a judgement on what will be actually proposed. Particular concern was expressed about site access. Access for the 400 or so staff and 100 volunteers [onto Nine Mile Ride] work but significant replanning of the access would be required for the additional load of hundreds of new residents.
3. The consideration for building 200 homes on the Derby Field was raised [land adjacent to the Crowthorne station]. One local resident put in a heartfelt plea to consider anything that can be done to link to the problem of commuter parking in such as Wellesley Drive. The Council are adamant that they can be of no help to residents who find their access obstructed. CVAG have been aware and sympathetic to this problem for some time but not a lot can be done until some formal plans are revealed. Current thoughts are that the plans should at least include increasing the area of the station parking provision but it is understood that parking is basically the rail authority responsibility.

APPENDIX A to Notes of Public Meeting following the 2018 CVAG AGM

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[Air Pollution AGM Presentation.pdf](#)