



**Walton-on-the-Hill Village Forum  
8pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Breech Lane Community Centre**

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Attendees:**

Grant Webster (Chair)  
Marilyn Ridgewell (Treasurer)  
Rebecca Paul (Committee member)  
Emmeline Moore (Committee member)  
Rosanne Bruggink (Pfizer)  
Margaret Mortlock (Pfizer)

Cllr. Jeff Harris, Cllr. Rod Ashford, Cllr Rachel Turner, Jean Bye, Val & David Lerner, Ros Henderson, Lin Ferg, Andrea Dix, Robin & Parr-Davies, Jean & Martin Saul, Norma & Bill Darter, Philip Truett, Liz Bishop, Alison Taylor, Mo Atkins, Gillian Hein, Jane Davies, Andrew Brown, Sara Brown, Mike Bawden, David Atkins, Caroline Devine, Dave Crowest, Martin Midgley, Mike Fox, Jayne & Stuart Goy, Robert Justice, Colin Griffith, Ann Liddle, Ethel Armstrong, Jim & Sheila Williams, Lorraine Wheeler-Smith, Ian & Bernadette Rutter, Robin Clark, Richard Milbourn.

### **Apologies:**

George Curry (Committee member), Andy Parkinson (Committee member), Jane Gandey (Committee member), Margaret Laing, Mary Cole, Iain Cruickshank, Charles Harvey, Jane Buttery, Clive Osgood, Mary Morley, Jan & Roger Collis, Iain Cruickshank.

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone, especially newcomers and Pfizer representatives. Apologies were read out (see above).

### **2. Annual Report 2020**

The chair delivered his annual report 2020 to attendees. See attached. There were no questions.

### **3. Election of Officers**

Jean Bye proposed that the existing committee is re-elected as follows:

Grant Webster (Chairman), Marilyn Ridgewell (Treasurer), Jane Gandey, George Curry, Emmeline Moore, Andy Parkinson and Rebecca Paul.

It was noted that Jane Gandey no-longer wishes to be Secretary.

Andrew Brown seconded. Unanimous vote in favour by attendees.

It was therefore resolved that the existing committee be re-elected for 2020.

The Committee is seeking a Secretary. Any interested parties should contact the Chair.

### **4. Financial Report**

The Treasurer delivered her financial report and confirmed that the 2019 accounts have undergone a successful independent examination.

There is currently £16,627.88 in the bank account allocated to funding of the Howard's Close Pavilion. A large part of this amount was funded through the highly successful golf day, but also by £1000 from Sam Gandey's Ride London event, £1000 from disco (organised by Emmeline Moore) and £1000 from the May Pageant. Expenses during the year include the pavilion planning application and SES water services totaling approximately £550. Our unallocated cash fund (i.e. everyday account) stands at £12,571.81

The Treasurer thanked Pfizer for their continued financial support.

### **5. AOB**

Nothing raised.

The Chair brought the AGM meeting to a close.

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Grant Webster - Chairman



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### **Village Forum Meeting**

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#### ***1 . Approval of minutes – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019***

The minutes were proposed by Philip Truett and seconded by Jean Bye.

#### ***2. Pfizer – Corporate & Social Responsibility***

Rosanne and Margaret from Pfizer gave a short presentation about Pfizer's Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.



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In the last 3 years, the main focus has been on education with special focus on Science and Maths. Young people are not entering these areas resulting in a massive shortfall of scientists. The aim of the various Pfizer programmes is to educate young people about what is involved in bringing a medicine to market, whilst seeking to positively change the perception of the pharmaceutical industry.

The programmes are targeted at 7-8 year olds and 13-14 year old and can be delivered in a variety of settings (e.g. Scouts/Girl Guides).

Another interesting scheme that may be of interest to the Walton Forum is their volunteering scheme. Each Pfizer employee gets 5 days for volunteering. As they employ 800 people locally, that's a great deal of manpower that could be utilised by the village for litter picking/pond clearing etc. The only limitation is that it must take place Monday to Friday during work hours. Litter picking was specifically raised and discussed, but all other ideas should be forwarded to Grant so he can liaise with Pfizer to arrange.

Rosanne also talked about Pfizer's sponsorship of Super Hero Tribes, which is a sporting event in Windsor for those with disabilities. And also, it's STEM education programmes (science in a box), which educates young people on resistance to antibiotics and the global threat that poses. By 2050, resistance to antibiotics could be a greater threat than cancer. Unfortunately, developing new antibiotics is very difficult. These educational materials can be downloaded by teachers. If our local schools are interested, we can contact Pfizer to get access.

Pfizer is happy to continue to donate to Tadworth/Walton in the future and is glad that we are able to use the money. They also donate to the local area through a community grant fund in Reigate/Banstead. Pfizer also makes product donations to developing countries (e.g. Uganda).

### ***3. Matters Arising & AOB***

#### A. Walton Village Pavilion @ Howards Close

The planning application has been put on hold due to the existence of a public footpath underneath the existing pavilion. One solution is to divert this footpath around the pavilion. This solution is currently being considered by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council ("RBBC"). It was recognized that Ed Moore has done an amazing job of keeping this project moving forwards in spite of the challenges.



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With respect to the refurbishment works, we have one initial quote from a local builder. We need at least 2 more, before we know exactly how much funding is required for the work.

B. M25/ Breech Lane Petitions

M25

An update from George Curry was read out with respect to his recent petition to get the M25 resurfaced between junctions 8 and 9, and/or appropriate sound barriers put in place. Over 400 signatures were obtained and the petition was debated by RBBC and a letter sent to Highways England. An unsatisfactory response was received, but with the support of local councilors, a meeting has been scheduled on 23<sup>rd</sup> March with Highways England which will be attended by Jeff Harris, Mark Brunt (Leader of RBBC) and George Curry.

Breech Lane

Ann Liddle raised the issue of Breech Lane road surface and her efforts to raise a petition to have it re-surfaced and the potholes filled. She suggested that if it had been Chequers Lane next to the Golf Club it would have been done already and to a high standard. Cllr. Jeff Harris refuted this stating that Chequers Lane was done purely for safety reasons at his request and absolutely nothing to do with any local premises. Ann accepted this explanation. A link to the online petition will be circulated and is included below.

<http://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/BreechLane/>



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### C. Breech Lane Community Centre

Ann Liddle explained there is only 4 people on the committee currently and they need more (ideally with legal, buildings, lettings experience). There is one meeting every quarter. They are currently organising for a new nursery school to be run from the hall. They have two interested parties that they are currently considering. Please contact Ann if you can help.

### D. Mere Pond

David Larner gave a short presentation on the water levels in the pond. There is direct rainfall of 30 inches per year. The main water source is from Withybed corner, and a pipe from Sandlands Road. There are other small supplies as well (Spaghetti Tree). The pond overflows into Walton Street when the water level reaches 33.5 inches. The lowest recorded level was 2 inches during the 2018 drought. There was higher than average rainfall over the last year resulting in a peak water level during Xmas 2019. Interestingly, 5 inches of rain raised the pond by 16 inches. Similar happened in Feb 2020 and the pond overflowed into Walton Street. Water should flow under the road into soak away under the Blueball, but instead it flowed onto the road indicating that the pipes are blocked or the soak away is full. This is being investigated by the authorities. In 2018, we removed a lot of weeds. More weed removal is planned with the help of a third-party contractor using specialist equipment.

Robert talked about the banks of the pond. One bank is part of Banstead woods and is managed by the Conservators. The Council provides the Conservators an £85k budget per year – only 2% is allocated to land near pond. It makes sense to develop a relationship with the Conservators in order to drive better maintenance of the banks. Robert would like a volunteer to help build this relationship with the Conservators. Grant said he'd like to be involved this.

At this point in time, we need to understand how much the council can contribute to removing weed as we can't do any new planning until this is achieved. The Village Forum will discuss and vote in June on whether to use Forum funds for this.

Grant reiterated that in our 3-year plan, the pond and pavilion will be priorities.



### E. Walton-In-Bloom

Jean Bye gave an update. 500 bulbs were planted around the pond and are starting to come up. There are some lovely snow drops on Gun Corner.

The new finger post sign on Gun Corner has been very well received, but residents would like the existing “oncoming traffic in middle of road” sign to be removed. Jean confirmed this isn’t possible for safety reasons. Philip Truett suggested we replace the sign with something more traditional looking in keeping with the village. Attendees were generally supportive of this idea.

Surrey CC have agreed to fill a rut near Ebbisham Lane caused by a large vehicle.

In order to have hanging baskets on the green this year, volunteers are required to water them. Currently there is only 1 volunteer, and it’s not possible for her to do all 12 baskets. Anyone willing to help should contact Jean. Jean has a trolley available for volunteers so they don’t have to reach up. Other option is that we get a third-party company to take care of baskets but this has a significant cost associated with it. The Village Forum will have a meeting to agree a way forward and to consider any other ideas for reducing the watering need of the baskets.

Volunteers are required to clean the Red Defib box on Gun Corner. It needs the glass and inside to be cleaned once a month and the outside once a year. Please contact Jean if you can help.

WOTH is due to receive two plant boxes from RBBC. Cllr. Rachel Turner was asked whether we can buy some more from the Council, but she said they are probably expensive and if we did this, we’d have to be prepared to take over all maintenance (i.e. watering).

### F. May Pageant

The Pageant will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> May and will support “Lives Not Knives”, the Royal Marsden and Shooting Stars. This year’s theme is “Our Precious Planet”. Tadworth school have been invited but are not joining as yet. Next Saturday is the May Queen choosing. Please come along if you’d like to watch – tea and cake is available. Walton Primary is doing the front cover design for the booklet this year and local charities have a free stall and advert. The committee needs volunteers



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to help with the raffle helpers, judging and procession stewarding. Parking is available for visitors.

Caroline Devine asked whether there were any plans to make the pageant more sustainable in light of the theme, but it doesn't appear so.

### G. AOB

Gage players are performing at the end of April. Tickets are £10.

Grant informed the forum of a notice received with respect to a consultation on the Walton conservation area. Jane Gandey has emailed this to Forum members. The Committee will send out a summary of the main proposals and highlight any potential issues. All comments should be emailed to Gillian Hein at TWRA. Gillian confirmed that the 21-day consultation period is likely to be longer in reality.

Mo Atkins notified everyone about a recycling meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March by the Open Group at Christchurch hall (TBC). Cllr. Rod Ashford recommended that people attend as very interesting.

Gillian Hein notified everyone that the next litter pick is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The TWRA AGM is on 27<sup>th</sup> May. And flower planting along A217 is going to take place which is great news.

Cllr. Jeff Harris has budget available for litter picking tools so please contact him to apply for funding.

### **6. *Walton Heath Golf Club – New Club House***

Both planning applications were rejected. The Golf club has 6 months to appeal the decision. No news as yet on whether they plan on doing this.

### **7. *Questions for Councillors***

No questions.

The next Village Forum meetings are:

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 @ 8pm

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 @ 8pm





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The Chair brought the meeting to a close.

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Grant Webster