

# **GOLDSWORTH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO**

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2021**

### **Attendees**

|                     |                              |                          |               |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Irene Watson        | Chair                        | PCSO Dino Gomez          | Woking Police |
| Celia Young         | Secretary                    | PCSO Sultan Khan         | Woking Police |
| Tina Hartley        | Treasurer                    | Barbara Challoner (BaCh) | Resident      |
| Cathy Butt          | Social Secretary             | Martin & Wendy Clark     | Residents     |
| Bob Challoner (BCh) | Project Manager NGP          | Steve Davies             | Resident      |
| Bob Cowell (BCo)    | Community Officer            | Aenne Hayman             | Resident      |
| Oli Walker          | WBC ASB Officer<br>(Speaker) | Holger & Valerie Marsen  | Residents     |
| Sajid Hussain       | SCC Councillor               | Ann & Gordon Moss        | Residents     |
| Ann-Marie Barker    | WBC Councillor               | Julie Newsam             | Resident      |
| Gary Rimay-Muranyi  | Dianthus Trading             | David Schofield          | Resident      |

### **Apologies**

|                      |   |                          |            |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|------------|
| George Binyon        | Editor, Goldsworth News                   | Roger Westcott           | GPAC       |
| Christina Candey     | Advertising Manager                       | James Rickwood           | Sea Cadets |
| Cllr James Sanderson | WBC Councillor                            | Hilary & Michael Addison | Residents  |
| Geoff McManus        | WBC Director of<br>Neighbourhood Services | Wanda Binyon             | Resident   |
| Seanne Hunter-Hill   | WBC Neighbourhood<br>Officer              | Gill Brookling           | Resident   |
| PC Iona King         | Woking Police                             | Ron Butler               | Resident   |
| Rupert Crossland     | Beaufort School<br>Governors              | Sue Johnson              | Resident   |
| Hilary Harris        | GP Cubs                                   | Katie Sherlock           | Resident   |
|                      |   | Liz Wilkinson            | Resident   |
|                      |   | Maryel Cowell            | Resident   |

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed those present to the first in-person meeting of the GPCA CIO since January 2020.

She explained that, as there is a guest speaker, the usual agenda items such as apologies, minutes and reports would be deferred until later. There would be a break for refreshments and she asked that social distancing be maintained.

She then introduced Oli Walker, Woking Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, who would talk about what constitutes ASB and how the council approaches such problems.

### **2. Oli Walker, WBC Anti-Social Behaviour Officer**

Oli Walker introduced himself by informing the meeting that he had been a PCSO in Hampshire for 12 years, focussing mainly on how Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) affected businesses. He now works for Woking Borough Council, concerned with all aspects of ASB.

He drew attention to the **Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014**, which gave new powers to local authorities and other local agencies, such as Housing Associations (HAs), rather than all action to tackle anti-social behaviour being the responsibility of the police. This meant that local authorities had powers to deal with anti-social behaviour of local residents, and Housing Associations powers to deal with ASB from tenants.

Although more resources are being given to local authorities, HAs and the police to deal with ASB each local authority or borough decides on the resources they will devote to this. As part of this Act, ASBOs were replaced by **Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)**. These can be used following a conviction for any criminal offence and seek to address the underlying

causes of the behaviour. This could mean referral to drug /alcohol rehabilitation services, or any other appropriate provision which seeks to address the root of the problem, a positive approach which was not available in the era of the ASBO.

Many people feel that they are affected, to some degree, by anti-social behaviour – there may be some element of criminality, or it might just be some form of behaviour that they are “fed-up” with, such as waking up to broken glass on the pavement or in the playpark, graffiti, or noise issues. Issues that involve criminal damage to property or harm to persons will be dealt with by the police, and those which do not involve such damage are the responsibility of the Local Authority.

The 2014 Act gave powers to the police and local authorities to act *without the need for a criminal offence* to have been committed. Offenders may be issued a **Community Protection Warning, (CPW)**.

If an individual or the community consistently reports the behaviour of an individual or a group, a **Community Protection Notice (CPN)** can be issued. The behaviour must be determined as being “unreasonable, ongoing and persistent and having a detrimental impact on the community” rather than “criminal”.

- ~ “Ongoing” behaviour has to be something that is happening frequently – it can be twice or more, but not necessarily daily or weekly – but frequently enough to be identifiable as a pattern of behaviour.
- ~ “Impacting on the community” is something that has an effect on the community rather than on an individual. Community groups should come together to report on behaviour that is having an impact on that community.
- ~ “Unreasonable” behaviour is more difficult to define as what is unreasonable to one person may not be unreasonable to another. The local authority or HA has the ability to make a judgement as to whether a behaviour is “unreasonable”.

The Act opened the way for community groups such as GPCA to report ASB where no criminality is involved, and to get it dealt with. For example, if a community comes together to say that bicycles are being ridden dangerously in a certain area, and they have evidence of this, and the perpetrator(s) persist in their behaviour after receiving a CPW and a CPN, even if there is no criminality attached to the behaviour, the perpetrator(s) can be taken to court, and criminality can be attached to it. So now, “post ASBO”, a local authority or HA can bring a case to court, and the police will become involved at a later date.

The Act also introduced the **Community Trigger**. An individual or group who have repeatedly reported ASB to either the police, the local authority or a HA, and feel that nothing is being done about it, now has the right to apply for a **Full Case Review** which would involve not only the local authority or HAs, but also mental health teams, social services and other appropriate agencies. The complainant(s) would be invited to the Full Case Review which would give a full report of the action that has been taken by the various agencies involved.

**Public Safety Protection Orders** were also introduced in 2014. These give a Local Authority the opportunity to say: “We have a problem in this area - and we want to do something about it”. For example, Woking Borough Council had an PSPO in place relating to alcohol in the Town Centre, which expired in 2018. The Covid regulations meant that there was no need to renew it at that time but now that life is returning to what it used to be, action is being taken to renew the PSPO in the Town Centre. Consultations are taking place now and to comment, the link is <https://communityforum.woking.gov.uk/pspo-consultation>.

The Chair said that there used to be a similar Order for the area around the lake and the playing fields.

### Questions to Oli Walker

Q: SD: How long does a PSPO last for?

A: OW: up to 3 years, but can be extended, if evidence-based.

Q: SD had spoken to a neighbour who complained about something 10 times or more and nothing was done about it. Is there any way in which the disruptive neighbour can be moved on to somewhere else?

A: OW: Yes, they can be. Even if they own the house where they are living, if they are causing **significant** disruption with a high level of impact on the community, e.g. running a crack-house, a House Closure order can be made.

Q: BCo: If just one person kept coming forward, would they be listened to?

A: OW: Yes, absolutely. If someone was living next door to a crack-house, or a person/people exhibiting violent behaviour, they would not be expected to go knocking on that door. If the complaint was of a less serious nature, e.g. noise, they would be expected to have tried to speak with the neighbour to try to resolve the issue between themselves. Surrey Mediation is there to help people resolve lower level issues between neighbours. Each neighbour will have a one-to-one session to explore the circumstances and, if both parties agree, there will be a joint meeting where Mediators will help them to resolve the issue. They are very successful in bringing about a resolution. <https://mediationsurrey.org>

Q: MC: Could we have some examples from this area?

A: OW: There have not been many recent disputes in Goldsworth Park. This may change with the releasing of Lockdown restrictions. There are no long-term issues currently running locally.

Q: GR-M: What is the position concerning e-scooters?

HM: Agreed – these are a big issue locally, especially around the lake path. Can the police stop someone on an e-scooter?

A: OW: This is a case where the law hasn't caught up with technology. E-Scooters are being trialled in some specific locations and are "legal" in those specific locations and for a set period of time.

A general debate about the current legislation ensued until brought to a close by the Chair who suggested that residents who want the law changed should contact their MP. She referred to a question from HM about whether the Police can stop someone on an e-scooter.

A: PCSO SK: A Police Officer has the power to confiscate an e-scooter but a PCSO can only *request* that they stop. Police powers with regard to e-scooters are currently under Road Traffic Legislation, not Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation.

Q: HM: Another issue is parking. Double yellow lines have been put in outside the school in Sythwood where it is dangerous to park. Why, then, are people allowed to continue to park in that area around school opening and closing times?

A: PCSO DG: The PCSOs are aware of the problem and do patrol but, if they are seen to be there, no-one parks. Cllr SH said that there are police officers who patrol near the schools but parking enforcement is for the Council to deal with.

A: OW: It is for the police to deal with offenses concerning the yellow zig-zag lines, but double yellow lines are for the Local Authority, not the police. Make representations to the Parking Enforcement Team at WBC, or your local Councillor. Cllr. A-MB: said she will take this further. The Chair said that it is recognised that it is the responsibility of the Council to enforce parking legislation, and Cllr A-MB has been asked to find out if tickets can be issued and people actually get fined. It is a real problem and what is needed is for the law to be enforced.

Q: BaCh: Why are some lines yellow and others white?

A: OW: White lines are used, for example, to indicate that drivers should not block a driveway. They are not enforceable under law. If there is a problem, contact the Parking Enforcement Team at WBC.

Q: MC: The quality of the pictures of the CCTV for the Shopping Centre is shocking.

A: IW: The Shopping Centre is treated as private property, even though it is now owned by WBC. There have been complaints about the CCTV in that area, which have been passed on to the managing agents, but there has not been a response yet.

OW gave an explanation of how security cameras work, describing their uses and shortcomings.

Oli can be contacted on 01483 743459 or at [oli.walker@woking.gov.uk](mailto:oli.walker@woking.gov.uk).

The Chair thanked him for his very useful presentation.

### **3. Minutes of last Public Meeting**

Agreed.

### **4. Community Matters**

- 4.1 Q: DS: There are trees off Hawkswell Walk whose branches are so low that they are hitting people. Who is responsible for the maintenance of these trees?

A: Contact our Neighbourhood Officer, Seanne Hunter-Hill on 01483 743702 or at [Seanne.HunterHill@woking.gov.uk](mailto:Seanne.HunterHill@woking.gov.uk)).

- 4.2 The Chair gave feedback on items raised at the last meeting.

The paving in shopping centre being so dirty – it seems that half of it has been cleaned and the rest will be cleaned in due course.

The picnic tables and benches have been installed and are being used regularly. They are much appreciated, and thanks go to Cllr A-MB for allocating the CIL money that provided them.

Lakers – no further information known. Cllr SH said that demolition is due to start soon but there is no information about the new development.

### **4.3 Your Fund Surrey**

The Chair reminded the meeting that the GPCA was planning to make applications to Your Fund Surrey, the £100m fund to make improvements in local areas, for two projects.

#### **1. Enlarging the children's playground and incorporating play equipment that can be used by children with disabilities.**

TH, who is leading on this project, explained that the playground needs refurbishing as the equipment is getting rather old, and the surface is coming loose and looking unsafe. The playground needs to be enlarged as it is too small for the number of children in the area and is often very crowded. There is very little for the 8 – 11year-olds and a larger area would permit more variety of equipment.

The only equipment suitable for disabled children is the basket swing, which a child can be lifted into – but, as they get bigger, or if they are a wheelchair-user, this is not feasible. A roundabout and trampoline which are flush to the ground can be shared by disabled and able-bodied children together. A wheelchair swing, where a wheelchair with a child in it can be fastened onto a platform which then swings would be a great facility. There is no equipment like this in Woking at present.

Facilities for children with sensory and other disabilities should be incorporated.

Q: MC: How would you stop able-bodied children from using the equipment?

A: IW: The roundabout and trampoline are designed to be used by both. The only one that wouldn't be is the wheelchair swing, which would be fenced off for safety, because they are large and might be dangerous when moving if a child ran in front of it.

#### **2. Constructing a modern, concrete skate-park**

IW, who is leading on this project, explained that the idea came from teenagers in the area who said there is no decent skatepark nearer than Guildford and that there is virtually nothing for them around here. It would be located between the children's

playground and the BMX track. Skateboarding has really increased in popularity recently, and it is represented at the Olympic Games for the first time this year.

Both of these projects would be on Council land, so their involvement is essential. Council Officers are actively supporting both projects and the Council would be a Project Partner. They have proposed that they manage the contracts and the facilities, if the GPCA can secure the funding.

For Your Fund, the GPCA must demonstrate that there is community support for the projects. Each project has its own Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/GoldsworthParkPlayground/](http://www.facebook.com/GoldsworthParkPlayground/)

[www.facebook.com/A-Skatepark-for-Goldsworth-Park-101420288836423/](http://www.facebook.com/A-Skatepark-for-Goldsworth-Park-101420288836423/)

and each has a “pin” on the Your Fund Surrey Commonplace Map:

Playground - <https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is/comments/60c91c5e7236ee022cca70d5>

Skatepark - <https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is/comments/60897891b00121022c2a16c5>

To support either or both of these projects, go to the Commonplace map (cut and paste the addresses above into your browser) and “agree” with the proposal. Community support is required if the projects are to secure funding.

### **Update on BMX Track.**

Funding has been secured from Cycling England and Woking Borough Council and the proposed improvements are subject to tender with submissions due in the first week in August. These will be evaluated and the GPCA will be consulted on the detailed proposals. The footprint is limited to the size and shape of the current footprint. The Council wants to work with the objectives of Natural Goldsworth Park and will seek feedback on how the track will fit into the environment, how to plant the banks, etc. The Council hopes that work will begin this year.

## **5. Officers’ Reports**

### **5.1 Chair’s Report**

Membership stands at 7 Trustees, 98 Individual Members, 30 Corporate Members, with over 1,100 on our Facebook Group.

It has continued to be quiet since the last Meeting. The Spring Litter Pick took place on 1<sup>st</sup> May and there will be another one perhaps towards the end of August. There are a couple of young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award, who are going out regularly litter-picking, so they are keeping things tidy at the moment.

### **5.2 Treasurer’s Report**

Again, it’s been quiet since the last Meeting. The year-end was 30<sup>th</sup> June and the Accounts will be presented at the AGM in October.

### **5.3 Goldsworth News**

The Editor sent his apologies but asked that the Chair to say that the summer edition was back in print after the on-line spring edition. A few of the deliverers have given up now so, if anyone feels this is something they could do, it would be helpful. Contributions of articles would also be welcomed.

### **5.4 Natural Goldsworth Park**

BCh reported that there will be surveys of small mammals during the first and last weeks of August. Some volunteers have come forward but a few more would be useful. This involves

setting some humane traps in the evening and checking them in the morning. There will be a Training Session on the evening of Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> August, which will be run by Robyn Dean who will explain the methodology. The traps will be monitored over 4 evenings.

Information on the results of the survey will be available on our Facebook page and the GPCA website, or by contacting [projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk).

KS, who has been managing NGP social media pages for some time, is stepping down so the Project needs someone who is good on social media, and could spare about an hour a week, to take that on.

RW sent apologies for this meeting and a report that life on the Lake has been good in spite of the hot weather. There was a recent angling competition at which 130lbs of fish was caught. The kingfishers have been seen flying with beaks full of fish in the vicinity of the wildlife area, and it is hoped that they are breeding in the Kingfisher Bank.

### **5.5 Social Secretary's Report**

Opportunities to socialise were rather lacking over the last year! A series of successful Quizzes were held on Zoom. Thank you to Cllr A-MB for the use of her Zoom account. The last Quiz, in May, was won by residents at Brockhill Extra Care facility who issued an open invitation to do a quizzes with them whenever possible. Please let the Social Secretary know if you would like to have a quiz night in person.

The Chair said that the GPCA was not planning a big event this year as the situation was still uncertain.

### **5.6 Community Projects**

A Goldsworth Park Calendar for 2022 is being planned. BCo has been sent a number of very good photographs for the calendar, but in some, the definition is not sharp enough for the purpose. There are also a lot of the Lake and more variety would be welcomed.

### **6.1 AOB**

GR-M: Notified that the British Orienteering Group would be coming through Goldsworth Park on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> August.

JN advised us that her son is one of the DofE litter pickers and if anyone knows of any areas in Goldsworth Park that need attention, please contact her.

The Meeting ended at 9.00pm.