

**FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE FLACKWELL HEATH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
HELD ON 29 MARCH 2005 AT
THE FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

In Attendance: David Johncock, Chairman
Craig Lewis, Vice-Chairman and Lead Traffic Group
Mike Scullion, Treasurer
Pauline Gibson, Secretary
Barbara Grierson, Membership Secretary
David Onslow, Chair Police and Traffic Group
Leigh Franklin, Lead Police Group
Elaine Parsons, Chair Decorations Group
Phil Hammond, Chair Planning and Environment Group
Graham Carter, VDS Lead, P&E Group
Mike Knott, Wycombe District Council
Ken Ross DL
Councillor David Shakespeare, Bucks County Council
Councillor John Savage, Wycombe District Council
Councillor Barbara Hunt, Chepping Wycombe Parish Council
Councillor Michael Wilkes, Chepping Wycombe Parish Council
Councillor R Jennings, Chepping Wycombe Parish Council

Plus: 46 Association Members

Item 1 - Introduction by Chairman and Apologies for Absence

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Residents Association members and especially Ken Ross who, besides being one of our patrons, had provided tremendous support over the past months. He also expressed his appreciation for the attendance of the many County, District and Parish Councillors as well as the non-members of the Association. Finally, he welcomed Mr Mike Knott of Wycombe District Council who was providing a short presentation on the potential development of the Wycombe District area over the next few decades and the impact that this might have on Flackwell Heath.

1.2. Apologies for absence had been received from:

Lord Carrington, Patron
Dominic Greive MP
Peter Wheeler Chairman, Chepping Wycombe Parish Council
Brian Day, Parish Clerk, Chepping Wycombe Parish Council
Mr Tony Mahood,
Mr & Mrs Clive Tilley
Pam Mannering. Chair Youth Group

1.3 The Chairman noted that there appeared to be some confusion between the **Residents** Association and the **Community** Association. He provided clarification of the differences in organisation and function, and emphasised that only members of the **Residents** Association could vote on the motions before this specific meeting.

Item 2 - Agenda

2.1 The Chairman confirmed that the primary purpose of the meeting was for the Executive Committee to provide an Annual Report to members, for the core committee members to be formally elected and for the members of the Residents Association to approve the Association's accounts. There would be an hour allocated for questions from the floor.

Item 3 - Chairman's Annual Report

3.1 Introduction. The Chairman advised that the formal report for the last 12 months had been on display in the hall, and that a copy would be put in the Library and on the Flackwell Heath website. Although this report outlined all the activities of the Association, his presentation to the AGM would concentrate on major issues that have challenged the Executive Committee over the last year and the successes achieved. The Group Chairs would go on to provide short presentations on their groups' activities.

3.2 Organisation. The following summarises achievements over the last year:

- FHRA was formally constituted in August 2004 and an application has been submitted to become a registered charity.
- In conjunction with CWPC, organised two public meetings as part of the government's Appraisal Scheme and, based on inputs received from those attending, defined key objectives both in the short and long term.
- Improved links with local government bodies which are reaping benefits.
- Mounted a membership campaign and we now have over 200 members.
- Honoured that both Lord Carrington and Ken Ross (Buckinghamshire's Deputy Lieutenant) had kindly agreed to be Patrons.
- New sub Groups formed covering "Planning and Environment" and "Fund Raising". The former was going from strength to strength, but unfortunately the latter had only one volunteer who resigned after two events because it was too much. Events are now being co-ordinated by the Vice-Chairman and every committee member gets co-opted to help organise events.

3.3. Sub Groups.

- On a general note, the Chairman mentioned that the sub groups would have achieved much more had they had more active supporters. On behalf of the community, he publicly thanked the group members all for their hard work and devotion. He urged that anyone attending who could help in any way please volunteer.
- He also mentioned the disappointments often arising from local government bureaucracy, current legislation and insurmountable practical problems which

although has not diminished the resolve of the groups has made everything take much longer than we would have wished.

- Partly in conjunction with the Community association, several social events had been successfully run and had raised much needed cash especially for the Christmas decorations.

3.4 Long Term Objectives. Several longer term objectives had not been completed this last year.

- Plan for Flackwell Heath to be included in the “Village in Bloom” competition
- Addressing “Value for Money” with regard to Community Charges – some initial discussions about the nationwide “IsItFair?” Campaign had taken place and a meeting with the Wycombe Area Co-ordinator was being arranged.

3.5 The Future.

- Key objectives initially identified have been reviewed and the document re-issued with several new aims added. A copy of the revised objectives would be published on the Flackwell Heath website and in the library.
- However, to meet these goals, the FHRA needed to improve its financial status and recruit more members.

3.6 Support. The Chairman thanked both residents and businesses within the village for their help and generosity. He was most grateful for the practical help received from many of the staff in Wycombe District Council notably June Churchill and Rebecca Coy. He also recorded his appreciation of the support and practical help from Local District Councillors John Savage and Julia Langley, Peter Wheeler Chairman of the Parish Council and Barbara Hunt, Parish Councillor.

3.7 Motion 1 - To Accept the Annual Report. Voting on this motion was deferred until after the presentations from the Group Chairs. At that point, the motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

Item 4 - Treasurer's Report

4.1 On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman presented the audited annual accounts up to 31st December. He confirmed that small grants had been received during the year from The Buckinghamshire Foundation, Wycombe District Council, and the Carrington Foundation. He wished to thank these organisations for their kind generosity. Whilst most of these donations were to help establish the Association and cover some routine administrative costs, most of the committee members continued to fund much of what they did from their own pockets. The Chairman opined that this would remain that way until membership could be expanded.

4.2 Generous donations had also been received from many residents and local businesses but these had been largely aimed at the Christmas decorations. However, we needed to continually raise funds if we were to be able to fund projects

within the village such as a skateboard park and a youth centre. This would also be a key factor in obtaining further grants from agencies such as the National Lottery who would not fund all project costs.

4.3 The Chairman advised that a copy of the accounts had been issued with the agendas and would be published via the Library and website. The balance sheet showed that £3312 had been received in grants, donations and other fund raising activities. Expenditure on administration and half the Christmas tree costs had totalled £673 leaving a credit balance of £2639. Subsequently, the balance of the Lamps and Tubes bill had been paid and there were now no outstanding liabilities.

4.4 Members were reminded that some of the grants received were solely for administrative costs to set-up the association and could not be spent on other projects. It was also intended to purchase and install a park bench in the Recreation Ground and we had received an anonymous donation towards that project. Finally, public liability insurance was necessary and would cost approximately £700 per year.

4.5 Motion 2 - To Accept the Annual Accounts for 2004. Members were asked to vote on this motion which was carried unanimously.

Item 5 - Group Reports.

Police and Traffic (PAT) Group.

5.1 David Onslow (PAT Chair) reported that Police and Traffic issues continued to dominate residents' concerns and complaints. He was pleased to report that considerable progress had been made and the group had achieved many of its objects. The campaign to provide a more proactive and visible police presence was bearing fruit but still needed continuing effort. Resolution of the illegal parking was still being pursued with the local police force and, latterly, Bucks County Council (BCC). He was pleased to report that communications with these two organisations had improved.

5.2 Now the Association had a voice with the Wycombe Partnership, this had opened up more opportunities for us to deal with the decision-makers within the Local Authorities. Through taking an active part in the various meetings, we could look forward to obtaining answers to some long-standing issues. The Royal British Legion was thanked for the generous free use of their premises for some of the meetings. Finally he commended his team for their perseverance and hard work in dealing with the many difficult issues the group were asked to resolve.

5.3 Leigh Franklin (Lead Police Group) reported that in 2003 a questionnaire was completed by Residents on the Public Toilets in the park and presented to the Parish Council and Wycombe District Council. As a result, the original block has been completely refurbished and will hopefully open soon.

5.4 Leigh advised that PC Hearmon joined the PAT Group meetings bi-monthly and beat surgeries had been held regularly in Christ Church. In addition a mobile unit had visited Flackwell Heath in the Community Centre Car Park. These surgeries are for residents who have concerns relating to police issues, and general advice. It was hoped that local residents would take advantage of these facilities.

5.5 A FHRA monitoring procedure for residents to report crime to the PAT Group had been set up to enable the group to keep a track of how often incidents occur. However, it was stressed that this was purely a monitoring system and was in no way an alternative method of advising the police of any crime.

5.6 The use of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) had been investigated and, whilst they are not police officers and have limited powers, they will be the eyes and ears of the police. The FHRA have made it quite clear that we would like to see a PCSO on a regular basis in the village. Finally costs and feasibility of CCTV in the village was being investigated.

5.7 Craig Lewis (Lead Traffic Group) advised that a traffic survey had been completed by over 300 people in November 2003 which gave the Group ideas on what areas to concentrate on. Illegal parking and speed cushion effectiveness came out as major issues. Badgering local police on illegal parking continues and regular meetings are being held with the police to ensure the parking problems are addressed on a regular basis. It was felt that things were slowly improving.

5.8 In December 2004, there had been a meeting with BCC to investigate the effectiveness of speed cushions and illegal parking. As a result, BCC had agreed to conduct a new survey and this will be closely followed up. Craig advised that a Speed Indication Device (SIDs) would be used in April around the village to gather data for the police and BCC. Craig appealed for more volunteers to help with this and thanked those who have already offered their services.

Planning & Environment Group

6.1 Phil Hammond (P&E Chair) advised the planning element of his group was responsible for monitoring and advising on planning issues and, where appropriate, for objecting to development proposals. To that end, his team had reviewed a number of planning applications including the Amersham & Wycombe College proposals and the planned installation of a wind turbine at Carrington School. On Environmental issues, his team aimed to help protect Green Belt & AONB from development. To that end, they had been working closely with the Chiltern Society. The group was also monitoring the WDC recycling initiatives.

6.2 On detailed planning applications, he mentioned the proposed developments in Chapel Road, on the corner of Straight Bit and Chapman Lane, and on the corner of Hedley Road and Sedgmoor. On the first two, he advised that objections had been lodged with the WDC Planning Department and he was pleased to report that, with the additional inputs of many local residents, the proposals were being rejected by WDC. However, the developers were expected to appeal and/or submit revised proposals and so we needed to remain vigilant. Phil then summarised activity on the Temperance Hall and advised that the Diocese had withdrawn their planning application pending completion of a Community Needs Assessment. The situation would continue to be monitored closely.

6.3 Graham Carter (Village Design Statement Lead) outlined the present position on the Village Design Statement (VDS). Various maps and information had been on display in the hall and all members were encouraged to look at these closely so they

would have some idea of what was proposed. Graham emphasised that work on the VDS was at a very early stage but that the community needed to support the resulting document if it were to be adopted by the WDC Planning Department. A Public Meeting would be held later in the year when the residents would be asked for their views. All were urged to attend so that their opinions could be registered.

Youth Group

7.1 In the absence of the Group Chair (Pam Mannering), Pauline Gibson presented her report. On a Skateboard Park, it was noted that a decision had been taken to provide a central one in High Wycombe and many of our village skaters had provided their thoughts on the design. Unfortunately, this will take some time and present teenagers would be well into their twenties before any results were seen. It was therefore hoped that we could provide a site in the village. Discussions were being held with the Parish Council to identify whether the Recreation ground could be used? The skateboarders had collected a petition and were raising money to help fund a village site. The Youth Group were also intending to apply for Lottery funding.

7.2 Events were now being organised as follows:

- Youth Club. The Youth Club in the Methodist Hall had been supported by the group and a local resident (Mr Charlie Aldridge) had made a notice board, solely for Youth News, which is located in the local Chip Shop window. This has proved a good means of communication.
- 10 Pin Bowling. Ten pin bowling at Daws Hill Air Base was still an option but the Youth Group leaders had to be vetted by the MOD before this could become a regular event.
- Discos. Organised by a group of young people, successful discos had been held in the Methodist Hall and the British Legion.
- Pool Evening. The British Legion were allowing the youngsters to play free pool for an hour every Thursday evening.

7.3 Finally the remaining project on which there was little progress to report was the provision of a youth coffee shop/drop in centre and this is something that will be concentrated on in the future. Trying to get funds for the youth projects had been very frustrating. If there was no definite project, one could not apply for a grant. However, one couldn't assess the viability of a project without knowing the size of grants that might be available.

Decorations Group

8.1 Elaine Parsons (Group Chair) reported on the success of the switching-on ceremony for the Christmas Lights on 4th December 2004. She took the opportunity to thank the many people and organisations involved who contributed to its success. The residents were thanked for their generous donations over the past year and it was hoped that they could continue to support us both financially and by attending the Christmas Lighting Up Ceremony to be held on 3rd December 2005. The focus

this year would be on extending the Christmas lights to include Acorn House but a further £1,000 was needed to install the necessary electrical boxes and the Group would be fund-raising to cover these costs.

8.2 It had been hoped to have hanging baskets this summer but Wycombe District Council had said that the street furniture was too old to support them. The situation would be reviewed when these were replaced. Another possibility was that local businesses might feel they could erect brackets, and hang and maintain baskets outside their offices to the benefit of the village. This was being pursued as was the possibility of putting flowers in the planter outside Acorn House.

8.3 Finally, it was hoped to organise an Open Garden afternoon in the village on Sunday 19th June which would help to raise funds and to encourage the community spirit. A request had been made for people to volunteer to open their gardens for this event.

Events Group

9.1 Craig Lewis (Events Co-ordinator) thanked everyone for their support in trying to improve the community spirit. He reviewed last year's programme of events and those planned for 2005.

- Jazz Night - Friday 13th May. This event included a two course meal and tickets were available from Unit 4, the Post Office and committee members. Tickets were discounted for Association members.
- Cherry Fayre – Sunday 17 July. Everyone was urged not only to join in the fun but also to help in the proposed resurrection of the Cherry Fayre. This will start with a parade led by the original Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car and will also include a Scottish pipe band, Stilt Walker, Clown, Local Groups and finally a Fire Engine. Craft stalls and competitions were being organised together with a Tug of War and 5 Aside football. Sponsors were urgently needed and anyone who had a local business based in the village was asked to support us. More help was required now with fund raising and later for manning stalls on the day. Volunteers were asked to make themselves known at the end of the meeting.
- Quiz Night – October (date to be advised). The proposed date for this popular event would be advertised in due course.
- Family Cabaret - 3rd December 2005. Craig confirmed that another Family Cabaret would be held following the switching-on ceremony for the Christmas Lights on 3rd December 2005. Last year's Cabaret evening had proved a great success and a big thank you was due to the performers, both young and old, and local professionals who gave their services free of charge. We would be looking for more home-grown talent in due course and anyone wishing to take part was asked to contact Craig on 01628 528550.

9.2 In his capacity as the Vice Chairman, Craig Lewis asked for a show of appreciation to the Chairman - Dave Johncock - for all his hard work and dedication, without which we would not be attending this meeting.

Item 6 - Election of Officers

10.1 The Chairman indicated that, in the absence of any other nominations, the present officers listed below were willing to stand for a further year and members were asked to vote on the Motion to elect them:

David Johncock as Chairman
Craig Lewis as Vice-Chairman
Mike Scullion as Treasurer
Pauline Gibson as Secretary
Barbara Grierson as Membership Secretary

10.2 Motion 3 - To Elect Above Persons For Next 12 Months. On a show of hands the motion was carried unanimously.

Item 7 - Election of Members Representative

11.1 The Chairman indicated that Elaine Woodman had been the only member to volunteer as an Ordinary Member on the Executive Committee.

11.2 Motion 4 - Elect Elaine Woodman as an Ordinary Member. Members were asked to vote on this motion which was carried unanimously.

Item 8 - Presentation by Wycombe District Council.

12. Mike Knott outlined the future planning policy of local government and the wish to encourage people to have a say in the future proposals for their districts. He stressed that this was in the very early stages, i.e. more strategic rather than specific policies but there was a necessity to look carefully into how the proposals could impact housing, jobs and transport in the future. He emphasised the need for residents to be consulted about these plans and WDC were keen to encourage people to get involved. This would also speed up the process of government. Several questions were raised regarding traffic problems and especially the effect on the M40 and also on potential development at Abbey Barn North and South as a potential spur on to the M40. In reply to a question Mr Knott confirmed that the proposals were dealt with by WDC and there were no County level plans. He pointed out that the plans related to Wycombe District and not Wycombe town. Flackwell Heath is in the Western corridor, which has been identified as an area for additional housing. A copy of Mike Knott's presentation can be seen at the Flackwell Heath Library and on the Flackwell Heath website (www.flackwellheath.net).

Item 9 - Any Other Business.

13. There were no items under this Agenda item.

Item 10 - Questions from the Floor.

14.1 Beat Surgeries. Barbara Hunt asked where P C Hearmon 's Beat Surgeries were advertised ? She felt that the low response to this was purely a question of people not being aware of when they were being held. David Onslow replied that these were advertised in The Grapevine and in Unit 4 but agreed that this was not

good enough. Barbara Hunt said that this was something that should have been put on the Parish Council Notice board and was surprised the police had not contacted them asking them to arrange this. Craig Lewis said that the police had a lot to learn on how to communicate with the public and mentioned that the Thames Valley Police had put a police van in the Community Centre Car Park to receive information or register complaints but no-one had been told it was going to be there. This was going to be brought up at the next PAT Group meeting. **Action 1.1 - David Onslow**

14.2 Police Contact Telephone Numbers. In reply to a question regarding the telephone number to report non-urgent incidents to the police, Dave Gresswell, (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) advised that it was 08458 505505. Dave Johncock stressed that it was necessary for everyone to report any incident whatsoever to the police. However, as he felt the police failed to record the true position regarding crime statistics, it was crucial to also advise the PAT Group in order that they can keep an accurate record.

14.3 Car Boot Sale Parking. Ken Ross expressed his concern about the horrendous traffic/parking problems caused by the Car Boot Sale on Sundays. The Chairman of the Community Association (John Sweetman) had already been approached on this problem and had spoken to the man in charge of the event. In turn, he had given his assurance that his own staff would monitor the situation and organise the traffic more efficiently. However, Dave Johncock opined that this needs police action but this was unlikely as, it was understood, there are only two sessions to go before the season ends.

14.4 Doctors' Surgery. One member asked whether it was true that the doctors' surgery in Flackwell Heath was looking for new premises. Barbara Hunt said that there was no room to extend the premises in the village to accommodate an extra doctor and instead it had been decided to expand the practice in Loudwater. However, there were no plans to vacate the Flackwell Heath premises.

14.5 White Wall Maintenance. Concern was expressed over the state of the wall near the post box on Common Road. John Savage said that they had got the wall repaired once before but he would take up the case again as it was a Health and Safety hazard. **Action 1.2 - John Savage**

14.6 Juniper Lane "Fly-Tipping". One member expressed anger that "Fly-Tipping" regularly took place in Juniper Lane. John Savage acknowledged that it was a continuing problem and agreed that there was a need to prosecute the culprits. He stated that the persons responsible must be observed by some local residents and urged that they report offenders. Asked whether this was something the FHRA should deal with, the Chairman stated that the Association did not have the resources to tackle every problem itself. Where there were existing governmental organisations/institutions that were able to deal with them, that avenue should be pursued first. Should that not prove effective, then residents should contact the Association who would try to deal with it.

14.7 Maintenance of Access Road by Off Licence. Phil Lawrence queried whose responsibility it was to keep the lay-by by the off-licence in good repair. John Savage said this was private property leased out to shopkeepers by a gentleman in Switzerland. He said that the owner should maintain it but he took no interest. John

Savage thought the taxpayer should not have to bear the costs but had previously suggested that, if the shopkeepers agreed to contribute £100 each, the Council would provide the rest. Unfortunately, the offer had not been taken up by the shopkeepers and was no longer available.

14.8 Floral Beds and Baskets. Elaine Parsons was asked whether we could have some flowers around the village as they do in Bourne End. She reiterated that there were health and safety considerations which prevented the use of hanging baskets. However, consideration was being given to stocking the planter outside Rudhini's restaurant and the area around the Flackwell Heath millennium sign. It was suggested that a local DIY store or landscape gardener be approached to see if they will sponsor this work and Elaine agreed to pursue this option. **Action 1.3 - Elaine Parsons**

14.9 FHRA Appreciation. One Association member commented that to encourage community spirit was a really good idea and complimented the FHRA on their efforts to encourage this.

Item 11 - Date of Next Meeting

15.1 The Chairman proposed that the date of the next meeting be 28th March 2006 and this was accepted.

15.2 Dave Johncock thanked the ladies of the FHRA committees; Pauline Gibson, Barbara Grierson, Elaine Parsons, and Leigh Franklin, and he presented bouquets of flowers to each of them.

15.3 The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.

D A JOHNCOCK
Chairman

P GIBSON
Secretary