

Bisley Residents Association, 18th Annual General Meeting, Friday 13th October 2023

Report by the Chairman, Norman Holden.

Our Committee for the year 2022-23 comprised eight members, myself as Chairman; Jim Clarke, Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor; Alex Summers, Treasurer; Liz Colvin, Secretary; Ray Colvin, Membership Secretary and Website manager, Chris Bixley, Paul Hollylee, Nicki Rapley.

We continue to hold Committee Meetings via Zoom - and we have informal meetings, and email and telephone discussions. We're grateful to the members of the Association's Committee for all their work. They have all agreed to be nominated for the Committee during this evening's AGM election process

Bisley Residents Association at present has **36** households in membership and our Membership Secretary's report can give details of the present system at Item 4 of this evening's Agenda - once again we emphasise how important it is to increase the membership to make your Association stronger and more effective - we need lots of new members with new ideas! We produced issues number 54, 55 and 56 of "Your Bisley", our very popular Newsletter. and the next "Your Bisley", the 57th in the series, will go to press in the next few days. The Newsletter is delivered to every Bisley household. However, we have experienced difficulty in securing a reliable distributor, - At present we are trying to engage a distributor who will deliver the Newsletter to every Bisley address at a cost which is not completely beyond our means. In this respect, we are very grateful to Bisley Parish Council who continue to assist us. (We still need to increase the membership of Bisley Residents Association in order to continue delivering the Newsletter to every Bisley household because it's an important service to Bisley people.) Every edition of "Your Bisley" is in full-colour. The Newsletter is still a village institution and it's a useful contribution to the life of our community. Again it's a pleasure to thank the Editor, Jim Clarke and of course Hester!. Thanks also to Ray Colvin for maintaining our website; www.bisleyresidents.org.uk

We're delighted to be able to resume our series of Open Forum events. Tonight has been the 34th in the series and we believe these events are useful and interesting for this community.

It was great to be present again at the Strawberry Fayre this year. B.R.A. had our usual stall at this wonderful event and we conducted a noisy but very successful Lucky Dip for the Village Hall: - our Chairman managed to annoy almost everyone at the Fayre by persuading them to take part in his rather silly "Do You Know Bisley" Quiz - but it raised some more money for the Village Hall! (Actually it was won by a WEST END resident!)

We had a Quiz and Supper evening in May 2022 and there will be another one on ^{24th} ~~17th~~ November. - we were at the July Picnic on the Village Green, with the B.R.A stand/display joining Almac Bisley Brass Band's Brass on the Grass concert

Teas on the Rec! the fabulous "TOTR" team again worked miracles in giving us 14 weekly Teas this summer - an astonishing total of £13,845 (so far!) was raised and the total since Teas began in 2011 is a truly awesome £103,000. A reminder that there's a mini indoor TOTR on the first Thursday morning monthly during the winter and spring.

Also we congratulate the team running the Community Café who continue to put on this pleasant event each Monday morning - it's very successful and really brings people together.

B.R.A. continues to support Neighbourhood Watch.. The Co-ordinator for the “six villages” is Mike Potter whose contact details are in our Newsletters. The Association has a good relationship with Surrey Police; We welcomed the new Borough Commander, Inspector Gemma Taylor – and Inspector Sam Turner who stood in for Inspector Taylor while she was on maternity leave.

In Surrey County Council, we were pleased to have regular and useful contacts with County Councillor Rebecca Jennings Evans – (Thank her for meeting on 12/10/23)

Our dealings with Surrey Heath Borough Council work well, thanks to our Borough Councillors, Liz Noble, Sarbie Kang and Ying Perrett– as well as Rebecca. We thank them again for their support of B.R.A.

Our good relationship with Bisley Parish Council continues. – BPC would still like to have two more Councillors to bring the total strength back to seven.

The following paragraphs are modified versions of those in previous years’ Reports:-
Regarding Planning, we repeat that Bisley Residents Association has been closely involved in discussions on local development applications; we continue to watch existing projects which have received Planning Approval and new Planning Applications and we also keep an eye on developments which appear to be in contravention of existing approvals or regulations! We assist B.R.A. members to enquire about potential planning/development matters in Bisley. and we remind members contemplating Planning Applications that B.R.A. is always ready to help in making contact with the relevant people in Bisley Parish Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council. We continue to contribute comments directly at Planning Committee meetings when requested. In addition- and to address concerns raised by residents – we asked Surrey Heath Borough Council to give us details of any Enforcement Orders and/or injunctions which are apparently being ignored – and any cases where work seems to be going ahead despite Planning Approval being refused.

The Association plays its part in other local events and topics. When we are asked by B.R.A. Members to intervene or at least take an interest in any matters concerning the Bisley community, we always do our best to investigate and act appropriately.

Looking forward to the coming 12 months, we are planning two more Open Forum events in 2024, plus two social evenings, probably quiz/supper events and we will of course keep you updated on these.

This then is my report on Bisley Residents Association's year since October 2022. We assure you that we are still doing our best to contribute positively to Bisley life.