

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet

Residents Association

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COMMITTEE TO FIGHT THE PLANS TO BUILD ON BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET GREEN BELT DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING which took place at The Benbow 29th April 2013

The Chair opened the meeting at 19.30.

Attendees

Rose Griffin (RG) Chair; Carole Turkson (CT); Derek Twidell (DT); Laura Watts (LW); Tina Whitham (TW); Tracy Calver(TW).

1. **Speaker 1st May** – No speaker had been found. RSPB were unable to help.
2. **Petition** – we obtained over 770 signatures at the St. Georges Day Event. This brought the total including the e-petition up to 4250. Daphne Payme had said that she would do a boot sale with the things left over from the table top sale and the tombola. RG said that if Daphne did this then she and anyone else willing to help could go along with the petition. As long as the boot sale covered its costs it was okay as the petition was the important thing.
3. **Letters of Objection** – disappointingly only 185. BBC were not aware of the letters sent to Stephen Metcalfe (about 220) and RG would follow this up
4. **Facebook** – Steph Parry had suggested an RA Facebook account. The committee had discussed it previously and voted against it as we already had a web page. It was decided that even if the decision were reversed that it would be too late now to set something up, which was worthwhile, due to the short time before a decision is made. However, we would look at Facebook again if BBC turned down Meridian's application and Meridian subsequently appealed.
5. **Update on Decision Date** – 4 dates had been provided by BBC 4th June, 18th June, 2nd July and 16th July. 4th June was unlikely but David Lewis had advised the RA that BBC did not want to let the decision slip back till 16th July. The petition would need to be handed in at least 14 days before hand.
6. **Rare jewel Beetle** – RG noted that Meridian had reported a jewel beetle being found on LCHF in the Environmental Scoping Study. RG thought that the location described was on the border of Westlake Park of Jackaman's Farm
7. **Bug Count** – In view of point 6 RG suggested a "Bug Count" and said that she would contact Essex Wildlife Trust. She had tried to make contact previously without success.
8. **Results of Flash Fiction competition** – judging was complete and TW would put the winning entries on the website.
9. **Treasurer's Report** – With the £62 from the tombola TC said that funds stood at approx. £600. She would update at the 1st May meeting.

10. Fundraising Offer by Benbow – RG had spoken to Caroline Turner who said that the Benbow would run an event of our choice but the cost of the entertainer would come out of the income. The Benbow could sell 20 tickets but it would be up to us to sell the rest. In view of the time that RA committee members were putting into responses to Meridian’s planning application; letters of objection and the petition it was decided that we could not stretch ourselves any more to sell tickets especially as we did not need funds. RG said that the Table Top sale had been hard work and it would be too much to take on anything else at the moment. The RA would thank the Benbow for its offer but decline to take it up at the moment.

11. Exit Strategy – RG said that the committee needed to consider an exit strategy. If BBC turned down Meridian’s application and there was no appeal then there would be no reason for the RA’s continued existence. Our constitution stated that any unused funds would be handed to the parish council if we wound up. If we have excess funds at the time we were wound up we may wish to decide what we wanted to do with them before handing them over to the parish council.

12. Any Other Business

Alan Aubrey had resigned from the committee due to family reasons.

RG thanked GS, TC, TW, CT and LW for putting in so much hard work in responding to Meridian’s planning application.

Date of Next Meeting – to be agreed.