

Heathrow Expansion Community Engagement Team Iver and Richings Park Local Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 20th January 2020

Venue: Richings Sports Park

Time: 7.00pm

Community representatives present:

- Chris Jordan – The Ivers Parish Council
- Wendy Matthews – The Ivers Parish Council
- Jilly Jordan – South Bucks District Council
- Pat Leech – Iver Village Hall
- Peter Done
- Graham Young – RPRA/IGNS/ICLL
- Alan Wilson – Iver Heath Residents' Association
- Ciarán Beary – Iver Village Residents' Association
- Revd. Robert Gooding – Iver Parish Church

Heathrow representative present:

- Patrick Kelly – Heathrow Expansion Community Engagement Team
- Steven Beauchamp – Heathrow Expansion Community Engagement Team
- Tim Read – Heathrow Expansion Community Engagement Team
- Bethan Cawte – Heathrow Expansion Community Engagement Team

1. Introductions

Tim Read (TR)/Patrick Kelly (PK) welcomed all of the attendees and gave an overview of the principles behind the new Local Liaison Groups. Steven Beauchamp (SB) introduced himself as the Local Community Engagement Manager. TR invited attendees to suggest other people within their community who could be invited to join the group. The community engagement team explained that the key purposes of the LLGs are to give local areas a voice, to communicate what is going on in their area and to be more flexible in terms of engagement.

2. Key points raised in an initial discussion about the LLG

The following are key points raised by the LLG attendees:

- A request was made for the LLG presentation slides to be circulated after the meeting along with the minutes.
- The importance of treating Iver Heath and other areas around Iver and Richings Park equally was highlighted.
- There is a feeling of frustration at the number of consultations, forums and presentations, often without a mechanism to update the community on the steps taken as a result of their engagement. There is also a feeling that communication within Heathrow doesn't always ensure community concerns are shared internally. The issues of aircraft noise respite and airspace design were highlighted as examples of this.

- A request was made for a diagram (e.g. organogram) to be shared with the group which clearly sets out the key roles and responsibilities within Heathrow, from the Executive Board to the Community Engagement Team.
- Concern was expressed that the LLG is a box ticking exercise by Heathrow, and that nothing will be achieved.
- Attendees welcomed increased dialogue with Heathrow regardless of expansion, as they argue that the airport already does have a significant impact upon the Iver & Richings Park area.
- The importance of setting ground rules and ensuring there is transparency was highlighted. There is a feeling that the statutory consultation was not truly consultative, and Heathrow only considered comments it wanted to receive.
- There is a feeling that it is important to discuss the historical impact upon the area, to give the new community engagement team context on what has already happened.

The following are key points raised by the Heathrow Expansion Communities Team:

- It was highlighted that the emphasis of this new engagement is proactivity, and that the team will be in the community often.
- SB and PK asked for recommendations for community investment opportunities.
- The team welcomes suggestions from the group on areas to include, organisations and individuals to invite and venues to use for future meetings.
- It was recognised that Heathrow is asking a lot of the group to attend regular meetings, but assured attendees that the same team will be there to be held accountable. The team's goal is to prove it can find out answers and achieve a response to recommendations. The intention is that the meeting is the starting point of years of ongoing engagement.

3. Workshop discussion – how will the proposals impact the community

A number of points were raised. The key issues impacting the community were identified as:

Aircraft noise

- The area currently gets no respite from noise when the northern runway is in operation as residents can hear both take-off and landings.
- Following the changes to airspace design residents fear they will get no respite at all, but are still excluded from compensation.
- There was frustration that Heathrow representatives were not acknowledging that there would be no respite.

Transport to Heathrow

- A shuttle bus service to Heathrow has recently been implemented.
- However, the current route only has one stop in Richings Park.
 - Suggestion that the route needs to go through the middle of Richings Park and link up with the train station. Also, the route needs to go to Iver Heath.
 - Frustration that comments had been made at the LFF but these were not reflected or explained in the final proposals
- It was suggested that a north – south bus route is also introduced, which connects to Pinewood Studios.
- It was raised that the current plan for a Green Loop does not include the Iver and Richings Park area.
- There is concern that future road closures will increase traffic in the high street.

Car parking

- The group raised the prevalence of illegal car parks in the area as a major issue. The car parking charge enforced by Heathrow has led to seven illegal car parks across the Parish. This issue has been raised in the past, but the group see little evidence of anything having been done.
- One example is a car park off Langley Park Road, where there is a permanent tow truck and cars are being vandalised.
- Concern that with Heathrow's goal to reduce parking with expansion, the problem will get worse.
- There is also an issue with street parking in the area.
- Suggestion that Heathrow uses the same methodology as Gatwick to tackle the problem:
 - Only approved 'meet and greet' car park companies will be allowed to take cars from the airport.
- Suggestion for Heathrow to look at legislative options.

Freight on local roads

- It was raised that high numbers of lorries drive through the villages, and as the roads aren't wide enough they often drive on the pavement, putting pedestrians at risk.
- It was suggested that Heathrow develop a freight strategy to take lorry traffic off local roads.
- Suggestion to implement ground rules in purchasing agreements with freight companies, which stops lorries from driving through villages.
- It was requested that a relief road is constructed for freight traffic.
- Concern was raised about lorries parking in the area while they wait for their time slot to go to the airport. Heathrow had previously promised a cargo depot but this hasn't happened, and the issue is getting worse.

Air quality

- Concern was raised about the currently high levels of pollution in Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park. Concern that expansion will make this worse.
- It was recommended that Heathrow commissions an independent study of air quality in the area.
- Suggestion to take a holistic approach to the issue of pollution, and recognise the many sources that contribute to poor air quality.

Construction impacts

- There is significant concern about the impact on individual residents during construction.
- Concern was raised by one group member about a future borrow pit outside their house, which he felt was making it impossible to sell.
- Concern raised about the heavy impact on Old Slade Lane and The Poynings.

Water

- Concern was raised about increased demand for water following development, causing a possible water shortage.
- Concern was raised about chalk streams in the Chilterns running dry
- Concern was raised about flood risk caused by river diversions, new tarmac and tunnelling. Request for a technical lead on water to speak to the group.

Other issues

- Concern was expressed about litter in the area.
- A question was raised about compensation for Iver and Richings Park in comparison with other Heathrow villages

- It was noted that the group feels ignored and neglected, both by Heathrow but also South Bucks County Council. It was argued that the area will suffer the negative effects of expansion, and can't see too many benefits.
- It was raised that schemes to reduce environmental impacts are only in place at the airport, but the surrounding areas are still being impacted. There is not enough infrastructure for Heathrow to be green.
- There is concern that a Heathrow sits in the shadow of a lot of other negative impacts on the community (e.g. M4 etc.).

Future communications

- The group asked how they can communicate to other residents in the area, not present at the LLG. The community bulletins were raised as a way to do this, and it was noted that Heathrow can provide assistance with mailouts and other forms of communication if that was felt appropriate
- The community engagement team asked for recommendations about times and locations for drop-in sessions. The group asked what the purpose of the sessions and expressed concern that they would be similar to consultation events.

Opportunities

- A question was asked about the budget for providing funding to local charities.
- There is the possibility for the community engagement team to speak at the residents' association meetings, if Heathrow can address some of the issues raised.

Summary

- The Group recognised that not all of the points raised can be answered by HAL yet. However, Heathrow Communities Team will endeavour where possible, to inform the group and invite technical experts to meetings when appropriate.
- Minutes of each meeting will be distributed a week after the event, along with the presentation slides.

4. Next meeting

The Communities Team will circulate a suggested date for the next meeting in a month's time to update the group on the issues outlined above. The group was happy with the venue of Richings Sports Park and a meeting time of 7pm.

It was suggested that Andrew Montgomery, rector of St Margarets, Iver Heath is invited

Summary of Actions

- SB to visit car parks with The Ivers Parish Council and look to establish the issue and identify whether there were any possible solutions.
- Bus routes to be reviewed by the community engagement team. If a change cannot be made, team leads will come to a future LLG to explain the decision to the group.
- Future presentations to be held on each issue listed above, delivered by the team leads.
- SB/PK to provide regular updates by email on progress.
- Request for Heathrow to provide further information on Community Investment opportunities and potential allocation of funds.
- Request for a team organogram.