

Rickmansworth Local Area Forum - Tuesday, 4th March, 2025 7.30 pm

Attendees: -

Cllr Debbie Morris

Cllr Tony Humphries

Cllr Paula Hiscocks

Cllr Andrea Fraser

Cllr Raj Khiroya

Cllr Francois Neckar

Cllr Oliver Cooper

Cllr Shika Bhatia

Paul Harding

Helen Richards

Brian Richards

Charles Kilkenny

1.Introduction and Apologies

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Nelmes, Cllr Di Barber, Cllr Lisa Hudson, Cllr Reena Ranger, Louise Price

Comments from the chair

- Follow up from last meeting – update from Chair. Aquadrome path along the river Colne still considered as unsafe and cannot be re-opened even with a warning sign.
- Deferential parking prices – More clarity required as to what is required.

2. Community Safety Update.

Community safety officer and the police were not available. A statement was read out by the chair relating to current crime statistics

Cllr Neckar requested crime statistics are broken down by area and type for the next meeting. Cllr Cooper asked what consultation has been had with Cllrs or the public regarding the placement of CCTV cameras in Rickmansworth. Cllr Raj Khiroya asked that the data shows yearly comparisons on types of crime and that the police attend the next forum. Cllr Sims asked that formal minutes be taken covering the action points. A show of hands passed this unanimously. Cllr Cooper suggested we explore live streaming as also raised by Cllr Neckar.

3, Local Plan Update

Update read out by the chair.

Concerns were raised that it has taken so long (10 years and counting) for the local plan to be submitted, as well as current infrastructure shortcomings and the fear of speculative development in the local plan's absence. Cllr Cooper provided

Batchworth neighbourhood plan to be offered up to a public referendum on May 1st.

4. Safety of paths in public spaces

Cllr Sims raised the danger of the wooden bridge behind the recycling station which is dangerous, and people are falling. Paul Harding provided a detailed report on the state of the hydrology assets of the aquadrome and will forward this to the chair. Cllr Hiscocks noted that the paths in the Aquadrome were only paved until the last couple of years. Cllr Cooper requested that legal advice be sought regarding as to whether the river Colne path has to be closed or not, due to insurance restrictions

5. Rickmansworth high street

Confusing parking signage on Rickmansworth high street – Kimberley Rowley to be engaged. County is targeting illegal vape shops. Residents are concerned about the type of shops on our high street and the potentially illegality of some. Cllr Humphreys noted that vape shops do not require a license. Cllr Hiscocks advised that Rickmansworth Library will be re-opened in April and will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary. Cllr Fraser provided an update on graffiti in the high street, the quality of shops, signage in the high street and bins. Cllr Morris provided an update on the planning application for mc Donalds. Cllr Cooper advised that a planning application has been approved for 57 flats in the former Drake house premises. Watersmeet was discussed and the value of this community asset.

6. Any other business

Eastbury play area – Cllr Morris provided an update.

Cllr Fraser advised that she has heard that the old Aquadrome bridge will be repurposed instead of being scrapped. She will raise a question.

Reliability of the Arriva bus services was discussed.