



## ***Banstead Village Residents Association***

### ***62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009***

1. *Welcome by Chairman:*

Roger Collins introduced himself and welcomed all those present. He thanked those who were in attendance, outlined the evening's agenda and drew the attention of those present at the meeting to the fact that while Cllr Brian Cowle, Cllr Dr Lynne Hack and Cllr Sam Walsh were in attendance, unfortunately Cllr Mrs Angela Fraser was unable to attend under the rules as she is currently standing for election as our local Tory candidate.

2. *Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting:*

Roger Collins proposed that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting in May 2008 be taken as read. This was seconded and passed with no objections.

3. *Police Liaison*

The chairman was delighted to introduce Sgt Dave Charlesworth, the new station sergeant for the Banstead area. Sgt Charlesworth explained that he had come from the Traffic division, based in Godstone, and now had responsibility for the entire northern part of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead. He said he was pleased to be in Banstead and hoped to be here for some time. Sgt Charlesworth was accompanied by PCSO Jackie Phillips.

4. *Presentation by Dr Laurence Nathan MBBS, MRCP(Eng)*

The chairman then introduced our guest speaker, Dr Laurence Nathan, senior partner of the Longcroft Clinic, who with his colleagues Dr Imran Rafi and Dr Patrick Pearson had accepted our invitation to talk about health Care in Surrey with special reference to the Longcroft Clinic.

Dr Nathan began his presentation by explaining that the general practice moved from Dr Smallshaw's house in Banstead when the Clinic site was bought in 1972. When Dr Nathan joined the practice in 1979 Dr Mansfield and Dr Carpenter were the other two partners. Today there are four partners and four other doctors practising from the Longcroft Clinic.

When Dr Nathan joined the practice it had complete freedom of prescription and referral and there was no-one scrutinising the practice. All medical notes were written up by hand. Today the patient's notes are kept on computer and the practices are audited via computer looking at the Quality Outcome Framework (QOF). Responses to on-screen markers trigger the treatment of a

patient. There is a continual need to score highly on these markers or be deemed a failing practice which would result in a team being brought in to improve the practice.

The Primary Care Trust (PCT) scrutinises prescriptions and referrals. Practice nurses run specialist clinics for asthma, cardiology, diabetes and anti-coagulants. District nurses run the maternity services and the practice also has the services of a visiting podiatrist and dietician.

Dr Nathan pointed out that the building is not designed for good medical care and there was limited parking on-site available. The partners felt that the only way forward was to build the Longcroft Clinic elsewhere and had told the PCT so. The PCT had responded by saying that the Banstead Clinic in the Horseshoe would be earmarked as a suitable site. As a result of this the practice had architects' plans drawn up for a new clinic which would deliver everything and more. The PCT then turned the plans down. The new building would have cost £3-4million to build. The partners of the Longcroft Clinic are still keen to deliver a new practice for Banstead under any financial format including a Public Private Partnership (PPP). In the meantime they still care for their patients from the existing cramped building, the costs to the PCT being lower than elsewhere. Currently there is a vision at County Hall for a new village hub on the site of the Squirrels in the Horseshoe which, among other things, could accommodate a new Longcroft Clinic.

Dr Rafi continued by saying that there is a new type of Health Care reform every six months, the latest being the result of the Darzi Report into primary health care which advocates Polyclinics which can deliver all aspects of primary care. The Royal College of General Practitioners does not agree with this preferring the concept of continuing care which is a feature of the Longcroft Clinic. In the meantime the practice is working with GPs in Epsom, Tadworth and Tattenham Corner to find the best care for patients.

He continued by saying that the PCT is in deficit and under pressure to make services more efficient within the Epsom-St Helier Trust. He added that there could be a split or partial split between the two hospitals with Epsom supplying partial care and community care.

In response to questions the doctors said:

- that with regard to the use of alternative medicine there was not a lot of evidence base, in comparison to traditional medicine.
- There were on-going reviews at the Epsom-St Helier Trust. Some services, such as acute admissions, had already gone to St Helier as this saved duplication of consultants. Accident and Emergency, Maternity and Paediatrics are all under discussion. It was felt that surgery would probably stay at St Helier in the event of a demerger.
- The practice cares for around 12,000 patients which has remained constant for some ten years, but is now treating amore elderly age profile of patients

- There is a need to put pressure on the PCT and local politicians to provide a new Longcroft clinic for Banstead, the cost of which would be approximately £400 per head from the PCT.

5. *Chairman's Report*

The Chairman thanked Dr Nathan for his excellent talk and started his report for the year by saying that the latter part had been dominated by the South East Plan and he thanked all those who had responded to BVRA's request to submit views to GOSE on their proposal, among others, to double the number of houses to be built in the borough over the next 20 years. He also thanked the Road Stewards who carried out the extra work of distributing the particulars to all members of the Residents' Association.

The Chairman continued by saying that the organisation of the Christmas Lights, had been taken over by Justin Heraty-Plant who had produced a better display than ever. He hoped very much that he would continue with the good work but that we had been told that there will be no further funding from R&BBC which has in the past contributed £5,000 each year. We have enough money in the account for only one more year.

6. *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

David Gradidge, the BVRA honorary treasurer then presented the accounts which had been audited and are published on the back page of the May Newsheet. David Gradidge pointed out that as a result of the Association's exceptional outgoings during the year and the reduced income now being received on the deposit account we had for the first time in some years run a deficit on the current account this year. He added that Subscriptions had been raised to £2 per annum as from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, which will help to replenish our funds and this was well received by the members present. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Donald Rooney, seconded by Sylvia Cartwright and passed unanimously by the members present.

7. *Election of Officers:*

The chairman moved on to the requirement of the meeting to appoint an Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and the Executive for the coming year, which would then appoint a new Chairman at its next meeting. He thanked David Gradidge and Catalina Vassallo-Bonner for their considerable efforts over the past year and was glad to say they were both standing again as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Both David Gradidge and Catalina Vassallo-Bonner were proposed by Sally Hull, seconded by Audrey Carty and appointed as Treasurer and Hon. Secretary with no objection from the meeting.

The chairman expressed his thanks for the work done by the Executive Committee members during the year and informed the meeting that they had all

agreed to stand again in the coming year. The Committee members, being as follows, Drina van den Berg, Shirley Conacher, Lindsay Iorwerth, Marjorie Reeves, Mike Sawyer, Roger Collins, Tony Ford, Richard Heath, Alan Lansdown, Graeme Ward and Ron Phillips as our Business Representative, were proposed by John Macdonald, seconded by John Conacher and elected unanimously. Roger Collins carried on to say that the Executive Committee remains four short of its designated number, but that no further nominations had been received.

The continuing services of the auditor Christopher Jenkins to whom we extend our thanks were proposed by Sue Collins and seconded by Audrey Sharp.

8. *Welcome to Local Councillors and Open Forum:*

The meeting was delighted to welcome our Reigate and Banstead Borough councillors, Dr Lynne Hack and Brian Cowle and Sam Walsh all of whom introduced themselves to the members present outlining their personal responsibilities. Cllr Cowle is a substitute on the Planning Committee, sits on the Licensing Committee and on the Local Committee between the Borough and Surrey County Council for Roads and transport. Cllr Dr Hack is also on the Licensing Committee, the regulatory Committee and Local Committee. Cllr Walsh is Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee and a member of the Regulatory Committee. The meeting was then thrown open to questions from members, which included:

- Lady Neville: the work will start in September to revamp the pavilion and children's playground. There will be no problems with parking in Avenue Road or with the Bowls Club.
- Free parking in the Horseshoe Carpark cost the council £500 per week while it was in force. There will be free parking for the Village Day in July.
- The Planning department had had its usual monthly update meeting with Waitrose. The opening date of the new store will be confirmed after the end of the month.
- There is no more available funding from the council for the Christmas Lights. Pressure should be put on the council for continued funding. Redhill, Reigate and Horley town centres have other monies for Christmas Lights whereas Banstead has nothing.
- The Horseshoe is Surrey County Council owned. The roads are generally in a bad condition. Cllr Walsh and Cllr Mrs Fraser had looked at the roads, there are potholes everywhere.
- There could be the possibility of adding a skate board ramp to the new Multi Use Games Area at the Lady Neville. There is already a ramp in Nork Park.
- Flooding in Holly Lane and Garratts Lane had been improved but the road outside the Victoria Chemist needs to be realigned to get rid of the flooding.
- It is hoped that the missing interest will be returned in due course with the invested capital from Iceland.

- The Banstead Parking review will start in the autumn of 2009.

Other matters raised were:

- Prisons
- Street Notices
- Bus Shelters
- Need for a pedestrian crossing in Garratts Lane
- Filling in of the potholes in the Woolworth's carpark
- Government funding to Local Government:

9. *Any Other Business:*

There being no other business the meeting closed at 22.00