

# **LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Riverside Arts Centre, Thames Street, Sunbury, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 at 8.00 pm.**

## **Present**

(i) Committee members: Paul Watts (President), Paul Thompson (Chair), Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary), Iain Findlay (Treasurer), Stacey Pinto (Vice Chair), Clare Amin, Tamali Basak, John Hirsh, Neil Huntingford, Chris Hyde, Nigel Spooner.

(ii) Cllrs. Kathy Grant, Matthew Lee (late)

(iii) Other members: 75 approximately.

**Apologies for Absence:** Oliver Parr, Cllrs. Sandra Dunn, Matthew Lee, Laurence Nichols, John Turner

**Minutes of AGM held on 19th June 2024 – Approved.**

## **Presentation by Thames Water on its new barrier which will cause closure of the A308 for 15 weeks from 7.7.25**

A representative of Thames Water spoke of the reasons for installing the barrier which is designed to prevent large vehicles crashing into the reservoir. The risk is small, but the consequences would have a disastrous effect on the drinking water of a large area. He, and a representative of Hatton Traffic Management spoke of much consultation with Richmond Borough, TfL and Surrey Highways. Unfortunately, they did not consult with Spelthorne Council or inform residents of Lower Sunbury.

A long diversion has been arranged, which has to be A road to A road, so is around 10Km for east/west traffic. Google maps etc. have been informed, but the diversion is not enforceable, so it is highly likely that much traffic will divert down the Lower Sunbury Road and thus cause gridlock and chaos on the Lower Hampton Road/Thames Street and all through roads back to the A308. Also, the designated diversion has to cross east bound traffic at Church Street, Hampton, which is already gridlocked at busy times. Bus route 216 will be on a short diversion with temporary bus stops.

They are unable to work at night for safety reasons and because the machinery is loud.

There were many questions and concerns from local residents, including the movement of emergency vehicles. Also, a suggestion that train services could be increased while work was carried out.

TW apologized for not informing Lower Sunbury. They will issue a letter, within a week, to residents. It was only information seeking by Paul Watts and Nigel Spooner, published by LOSRA, that made residents and councillors aware.

It was apparent to everyone that TW & HTM are unaware of the impact it will have on Lower Sunbury. It was obvious they have no knowledge of the area and existing traffic problems, or the consequences of such disruption. There must be consultation and revision of plans.

TW & HTM said they would take all suggestions away with them.

Lincoln Jopp thanked TW & HTM for speaking to residents and congratulated LOSRA on making residents aware of the situation. LJ urged TW & HTM to reconsider their plan and to do a risk assessment on the barrier and traffic calming for the future. LJ is meeting with them shortly.

## **Chairman's Report**

PT summarised the aims and work of LOSRA whose newsletters are now delivered with Sunbury Matters. We have around 1,000 subscribers to its weekly ebulletin and everyone is encouraged to sign up. LOSRA has dealt with a wide range of local issues over the year and given advice to residents and builders. We are/have been involved in providing a defibrillator in Avenue Parade, keeping in touch with London Irish regarding the future of Hazelwood, the Eco Park group, the PPG at Sunbury Health Centre and Sunbury Ferry, which is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. The new notice board on Kings Lawn is managed by LOSRA.

Current issues are Local Government Reorganisation, the pending Local Plan and the Sunbury BESS application. Thanks to Nigel Spooner who has put an immense amount of work into research on this and thanks to Neil Huntingford who is involved with the River Thames Scheme and the Thames Landscape Strategy. LOSRA continues to pursue a foot/cycle bridge, Sunbury to Walton to join the Active Travel Route.

The annual subscription of £5 will not be increased, as we have accumulated funds. New committee members are required for LOSRA.

PT thanked all current committee members, the Riverside Arts Centre and all Corporate Sponsors

### **Treasurer's Report - Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024**

PT said the accounts are on the LOSRA website. Income was £2,700, with a surplus of £600. Thanks to the Post Office, the Good Estate Agent and Colleen Cuthbert for collecting subs. The accounts were approved. **Dominic de Lord of Crick Heitman Ltd.** was reappointed **Independent Reporting Accountant**.

### **Election of Officers and Committee**

**Paul Watts** was proposed to be re-elected as **President**. Agreed. It was proposed **Paul Thompson** be re-elected as **Chair**, **Colleen Cuthbert** as **Secretary & Membership Secretary**, **Iain Findlay** as **Treasurer**, **Stacey Pinto**, as **Vice Chair**, **Clare Amin**, **Tamali Basak**, **Jyoti Banerjee**, **John Hirsh**, **Neil Huntingford**, **Chris Hyde**, **Oliver Parr**, **Nigel Spooner** as **committee members** – all approved.

### **Guest Speaker – Lincoln Jopp MP for Spelthorne**

LJ described his day from driving to Westminster and his daily duties of various meetings, sub-committees and questions, including the need for more driving tests. Next week he has meetings with Thames Water re the road closure and SWR re Zone 6 and will raise the matter of extra trains.

LJ is concerned that only 2 of 6 secondary schools in LS offer A levels, so most 16 year olds have to go out of borough for these. With Shepperton Studios so close and so vast, he wishes to encourage them to sponsor a 6<sup>th</sup> form school to educate people in the multitude of skills needed throughout the film and TV industry.

LJ's other campaign is to make use of the amount of reservoirs in the borough which are ideal for floating solar panels, which have many advantages over land based ones.

LJ then answered a variety of questions and comments on LGR, the safety of BESS installations, voluntary groups supported by Spelthorne, 6<sup>th</sup> form schools and various river problems of slum boats, lock & weir keepers, concerns of flood risk for Lower Sunbury and islands through lack of dredging, release of any land bank by TW. LJ has a meeting with a river users group to discuss.

PT thanked LJ.

### **Open Forum /Any Other Business**

Monica J asked if there were any development plans for Hazelwood. JH said it is Green Belt, so only leisure facilities are permitted. The site was originally landfill, so would be very expensive to prepare for development. The site is not in the Local Plan which is with the Inspector for consideration.

The two local PCSOs had attended RAC, but had been called away.

**Close Meeting** - The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.