

**KESTON VILLAGE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the
Discussion with Councillors

held on

Wednesday 7th September 2019, 7:00pm at The Greyhound

Committee Present:	David Clapham	Cllr David Jefferys
	Shelley Sturdy	Cllr Robert McIlveen
	Peter Zieminski	Cllr Alexa Michael
	Kimball Ormond	

David Clapham opened the meeting by stating the objectives:-

1. Improve the KVRA relationship with our local councillors and define some responsibilities.
2. Discuss the volume and speed of traffic in Heathfield Road, including the unnecessary roundabout at the junction with Westerham Road.
3. Biggin Hill Airport – Strategic Outer London Development Zone, including flawed consultation, operational hours, potential increase of traffic and growth in jets and helicopters
4. War Memorial Project.

David stated that over the last year, our councillors had only made 4 appearances (out of a possible 18) at 6 meetings. We had raised many concerns on the above topics but none of our councillors had “owned” any of our problems. KVRA felt it was imperative, if any advance on our concerns was to be made, then a councillor had to “own” that issue and follow it through with the various departments and Officers in LBB.

Heathfield Road Various promises had been made concerning action to reduce the volume and speed of traffic along Heathfield Rd but had not been followed through. David Clapham reminded the Councillors of the report he produced in May this year showing the large increase in traffic, particularly after the construction of the new roundabout.

Volume Summary

The total number of vehicles using the B265 Heathfield Road are as follows;

- July 2013 56,291
- July 2017 80,119 an increase of 23,828 vehicles a week or +42%
- January 2019 110,331 an increase on pre-roundabout levels of 54,040 vehicles a week or +96%.

It seems no one took any notice of or acted upon these findings.

Cllr Michael said that another, more recent survey, had been carried out but we had no data. Cllr Michael said she would obtain it for us.

There were strong views that the roundabout needed to be removed or significantly altered. David Wood had pointed out that the roundabout was incorrectly located and provided a natural almost straight road through Heathfield Road for north bound traffic. (see enclosed photo).

Some sort of crossing was required and the example of a new, traffic light crossing at the junction of Hartfield Cresc. and Croydon Rd (A232) was proposed.

Finally, Cllr Alex Michael agreed to champion this issue.

Biggin Hill Airport KVRA considered it had been badly let down by two previous Councillors who had championed and voted for the additional operating hours despite misleading survey data. The SOLDC had been imposed and now formed a part of the LBB Local Plan, yet it seemed consideration of the impact of BHAL growth on the local infrastructure had not been considered. David Clapham stated that the latest report from BHAL (Biggin Hill LoCATE – A Case for Growth) still contained misleading and extremely inaccurate references to ‘support from locals’. The survey data concerning the residents support for the expansion of the airport had been based on false information. In addition 7 of the 9 airport pledges had not been met. All these points were listed in the documents circulated prior to this meeting.

Our Councillors admitted they had not seen/read these documents and obviously not acted on them, including understanding what the impact on the local roads would be. David also questioned why the planning and financial officers didn’t investigate the profits due to LBB which appeared to be called for within the Lease for developments such as the new 5 acre hangar.

There is a considerable amount of documentation surrounding these issues that David has drawn together from his own research and Flightpath Watch. Cllr Robert McIlveen agreed to champion this subject.

War Memorial Project Plans were going ahead for a commemoration on 10th Oct 2020.

LBB had pledged £750 towards the cleaning and Peter Zieminski was following up. Councillors support for gaining LBB agreement from the Officer to permit the £750 grant to be used for the Information Board rather than the cleaning was sought. The cleaning would now be carried out by KVRA volunteers.

