

# FEDORA

The Voice for Oxshott

Minutes of the 34<sup>rd</sup> AGM of FEDORA and the inaugural AGM of FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm at the Oxshott Village Centre, Steels Lane

## 1. Present

### FEDORA Directors

- Anthony Wolfe (Chair & Treasurer) – meeting chair
- Ian Dilks (Planning)
- Mike Wheeler (Roads)
- Debbie Chitty (Membership Secretary)
- Victoria Scott (Company Secretary)

### Local Councillors

- David Lewis, Surrey County Councillor and Elmbridge Councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon
- Andrew Burley, Elmbridge Councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon
- Alan Parker, Elmbridge Councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon

### Danes Hill School

- Maxine Shaw – Headmistress, Danes Hill School

63 FEDORA Members and Supporters

## 2. Introduction- Anthony Wolfe

Anthony Wolfe welcomed the members present, the local councillors and Maxine Shaw, Headmistress Danes Hill School.

It was explained that the formalities of the meeting would be split into four components:

- Overview of Roads - Ian Dilks
- Overview of Planning – Mike Wheeler
- Formalities (three resolutions)
- Address from Maxine Shaw, Headmistress Danes Hill

## 3. Apologies for absence received from

- Hugh Tompkins
- Keith Lester
- Lynne Quentinel
- Peter Yapp
- Peter Barrant
- John Richardson

## 4. Quorum

As required in the Articles of Association of FEDORA - the Voice for Oxshott CIC, it was recorded that with some 63 members, and so more than 10 percent of the membership, the meeting was declared quorate.

## 5. Other Initiatives – Anthony Wolfe

Anthony reported that:

- Oxshott had secured CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding for this year. This is the first time in a very long time that Oxshott had received any CIL funding.
- Hugh Tompkins was thanked for continuing to do a wonderful job in taking things forward with Sandy Lane. Progress made to date:
  - New white lines to the side and middle of the road
  - Flooding on the bend has been resolved
  - An informal pedestrian footpath has been installed from the Miles Lane junction up to Reeds School
  - Reed's School have applied to widen the entrance to school to help buses manoeuvre and so reduce the build-up of traffic
  - Plans are being developed to improve the junction with the A244
  - Outline details are progressing with regard to the speed limit changing from 40 to 30mph
- Lindy Wheeler has set up a group called the Oxshott Green Spaces Community Volunteers which works in conjunction with Surrey Highways because Surrey Highways are stepping back from undertaking some of the smaller jobs and issues around the village. To date work has been carried out tidying up along Sheath Lane, the path along Steels Lane and the corner of Blundel and Steels Lane.
- The opportunity had been taken to work with Surrey Council on their new tree planting initiative which will see 1.2 million trees planted across Surrey as part of their Climate Change Strategy. Some trees were already in place along Blundel Lane and shortly 12 new indigenous trees will be planted along the A244, next to Broom Hall. Joining these will be two lines of whips which will form a hedge along the fence. It was noted that Danes Hill School had kindly volunteered to water the new arrivals. Thanks was given to Robbie Stewart at Surrey CC for helping with this.
- There continue to be two flooding issues in Oxshott:
  - The Scouts Hut and Waverly Road – there have been productive conversations with Danes Hill School with regard to clearing the border ditch on a regular basis.
  - Wrens Hill – issues with surface water are being investigated by Surrey CC
- During the last two months Mike Wheeler has been in touch with both the Surrey Chief Constable and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner with regard to Surrey Police having the worst record in the UK for the prosecution for burglary and shop lifting offenses. An agreement has hopefully been obtained to hold a public meeting in Oxshott with the PCC so she can listen to the views of residents.
- Engagement – It was noted that website content and monthly emails had seen an improvement with opening rates of monthly emails consistently at 70%. Of all members and supporters.
- It was asked that that members and supporters participate in the two current surveys being carried out by Surrey Highways and Elmbridge BC.
  1. Speed limits through the village – 20 MPH
  2. Design Code

## 6. Thanks were expressed to...

- David Cooke and his team of 40 distribution volunteers, and for his continued work on the Oxshott magazine.
- Local councillors for their engagement with FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC over the past year
- Oxshott Green Spaces Community Volunteers led by Lindy Wheeler
- Sandra Elmes, Head of Communications, Debbie Chitty as Membership Secretary and Victoria Scott as Company Secretary
- All the litter pickers headed by Cristina Addison
- Everyone – we are beginning to look like a proper community organisation. Thanks to everyone for pitching in and making our voice heard.

## 7. Roads – Ian Dilks

### **Projects secured:**

- 20 MPH speed limit in the centre of Oxshott extending from DHS to the south of the village to just Steels Lane in the North including Oakshade Road
- High Street Parking
- High Street footpath – outside the Victoria and Surrey Hills Butchers

### **Projects under consideration:**

- Night time ban for HGVs
- Deployment of average speed cameras
- A reduction in the speed limit for Steels Lane and the introduction of a pedestrian crossing
- Reduction in the speed limit in Fair oak Lane from 60 mph to 40 mph
- Continuous footpaths from the south of the village
- Reduction in the condition and safety of the railway bridge

Further information on the above is detailed in the Autumn 2022 edition of the FEDORA magazine

### **Road works at the M25 Junction 10**

The roadworks have been approved. In the long term this could be beneficial to Oxshott as traffic has historically come off the M25 and followed the A244 through the village to the A3 so as to avoid problems at Junction 10. Progress has been made in organising a meeting with the new cabinet holder at Surrey County Council responsible for roads for residents of both Oxshott and Cobham.

It has shown that progress can be made if we as residents are organised and work with the correct people at Surrey CC and Elmbridge BC.

## 8. Planning – Mike Wheeler

### **Status of the Elmbridge Local Plan**

Draft plan had been approved by Elmbridge Council in March 2022. The main highlights are:

- An average annual target of building 460 new houses – 25% lower than government target
- No scheduled release of Green Belt
- A focus on building new housing on brownfield and town centres

The Plan went out for public consultation this summer – there have been some 350 responses including a detailed submission from FEDORA, along with challenges from landowners and developers. The timetable for finalisation has been delayed as more work is needed, so it is unlikely to be

submitted to an Inspector for several months and then there will be need for time for a detailed public examination that could take over a year.

There is a danger that changes in government policy or a change in government could derail the process and require major revisions that threaten the Green Belt.

### **Elmbridge Design Code**

The Design Code is an important component of the Local Plan and will determine how local areas are to be developed over the next 15 years. It is critical to get Elmbridge BC to recognise that the borough is not a single homogeneous area, so that Oxshott should not be classified as an urban area and subject to the same development criteria that apply in more densely developed areas.

Engagement process has now open and public participation in a survey is encouraged. FEDORA will participate but it needs the wider public to engage as well. If apathy prevails the result will be to give planners licence to transform the character of Oxshott – with Oxshott progressively transformed into another Surbiton or Sutton. It is important that the Oxshott community's voice is heard.

### **Local Matters**

Continued involvement providing advice to residents and dealing with larger and more contentious schemes. Thanks was given to councillors who sit on planning committees showing a very real interest in individual planning applications.

Change in Oxshott will happen, as housing targets must be met and all areas must accept the consequences. We need to make sure where that development happens these schemes respect the existing character of Oxshott.

## **9. Resolutions**

### **Approval of Accounts**

The accounts for FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 were unanimously approved.

It was noted that the assets of FEDORA were transferred by Deed of Transfer to FEDORA – the Voice for Oxshott CIC on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **Re-election of Directors**

Re-election of the current directors was unanimously approved.

### **Audit of Accounts**

It was unanimously approved that Keith Lester continues in his role.

## **10. Maxine Shaw – Head, Danes Hill School**

Maxine introduced Elise Tonnard, DHS' Director of Finance and Operations.

Maxine explained this is her fourth headship and she is really excited about her new role at Danes Hill. As Head, she feels it is her job for children to have the very best education. She mentioned the obligation that the children recognise their privilege and there is a strong emphasis on giving back as they move on and out into their adult life and into the community.

Maxine has been fortunate to build her own leadership team including a new Pastoral Deputy, who is working on the culture of the school and stated the importance of getting the culture right.

She recognised that the school plays a big part in the community of Oxshott and she wants people to be proud that Danes Hill School is part of the community and think that the children are really good ambassadors, not just for the school but indeed for the village.

She recognised that there has been a chequered past with the community. She is aware of the fact there is a problem with the parking and is actively working with parents to remind them to park considerately and adhere to parking regulations. The children are being encouraged to write a parking plan with the idea they will be powerful voice in the back seat telling parents what they are doing incorrectly!

Maxine also stated she was aware of fact that Danes Hill need to make sure their land is well maintained. She recognised that there are drainage problems and confirmed they are keeping ditches clear to hopefully prevent problems increasing and being exacerbated.

Claire Kohler, who is the new liaison officer, will be working with the community to make sure everyone is informed of upcoming events. It was noted that the school would like to be able to offer facilities to the local community, Royal Kent are using swimming pool facilities and the Scout group have been invited to use the climbing wall. The school are looking at the covenants with regard to the usage of the sports hall at the end of the school day in order for local community groups to further benefit.

Maxine emphasised that the most important thing for her was to have a positive relationship with the local community going forward. Hopefully there can be dialogue to iron out any problems that are encountered. Maxine welcomes the community into the school to share concerns and to also report any positives that could be fed back to the children and parents.

Maxine supports 100% the 20 MPH speed limit and supports a pedestrian crossing outside of the school. She welcomes more children walking to school but worries about the tight access.

## 11. QUESTIONS:

**Cathy Davis** – What proportion of children walk to school? Why don't more children walk?

Maxine Shaw - Very few walk to DHS. This is due to the restricted access and having to cross the road to walk on the existing pavement. The drive leading into the school is very narrow and the pedestrian walkway is making the driveway very congested.

**Charles Parkin** – As a resident of a house on the access drive to DHS, it is apparent that parents do not recognise that he and his neighbours might wish to drive from their house when parents are dropping off or picking up their children from the school.

Maxine Shaw - Maxine apologised and will look into the issue.

**Peter Lythell** – As a resident of Oxshott Lodge he is in favour of **a footpath in front of Oxshott Lodge**, but he has the impression that this was not progressing.

Ian Dilks – The problem is money. The footpath from The Bear, heading towards the village, has been approved and improved. Ideally this footpath should be extended to in front of Broom Hall, but that is

Surrey CC land, but it is considered to be a viable project. The issue is the steep bank in front of Oxshott Lodge. This steep bank would mean that in order to create the path, it would be necessary to push back and create a retaining wall above and along the footpath.

Peter Lythell – As a representative of the Oxshott Lodge Management Company he confirmed that the Management Company had offered the land to Surrey CC in order to provide the footpath and he thought it essential to get that footpath in place as soon as possible. Agreed that further talks should take place after the meeting.

**Leyton Hughes** – As a recent parent at Danes Hill, he confirmed that Danes Hill School do send out weekly newsletters which urge parents to act responsibly and to respect the school's neighbours. As a resident of Sheath Lane, it did not surprise him that parents in Oxshott drive their children to school as it is dangerous to cross Steels Lane. His thanks were given to Maxine.

**Alan Parker** – Thanked Maxine Shaw and welcomed her to the community.

**John Bushell** – Do you think **development of Wisley Airfield will have an impact on Oxshott?**

Mike Wheeler: Development will affect Cobham being the closest town. Planning purpose Wisley sits in Guildford not Elmbridge. Account needs to be taken when reviewing the plans with the additional demand that is going to be made on facilities in Elmbridge.

Ian Dilks: A3 not being developed solely for development of Wisley and would have happened in any case.

**Philip Davies - What is happening with the Wisley planning application?**

Mike Wheeler - An initial application was approved but then a series of subsequent approvals needed to be obtained. The current application has attracted considerable opposition. It is a work-in-progress.

Andrew Burley - Elmbridge is a neighbouring borough and consultee to the application. The application has been submitted to Guildford BC and is now under consideration and consultation. It has been a hybrid application with plans for the access roads a full application but the housing application is only in outline, so it is difficult to fully understand the proposed development's impact. Elmbridge's objection will be robust. He accepts and acknowledges that the development will go forward but wants its impact on the local Oxshott community to be recognised.

The meeting closed at 9pm.