

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT 2017 AGM

I would draw your attention to some housekeeping points. As you will see on the agenda parking is free for 3 hours from 7.15, so if you are thinking of doing some shopping do bear this in mind. We have a 20 minute comfort break at about 8.30 and coffee will be available. (There are toilets situated at the rear of the room.)

Moving on to summarise the last year's activities. The first half of year was spent following up on routine matters such as monitoring the hotel and the restaurant activities which, apart from some inappropriately sited advertising slogans, and some food smells depending on the wind direction disturbance has been minimal

We held a second Autumn Talk in October given by the Langstone Wildfowlers & Conservation Group which was very well received and very interesting. It was a pity that the turnout was disappointingly low. Do we continue with these talks?

The LRA website is functioning well, is fully operational and is ongoing with information on planning matters, past copies of the newsletters and LRA news. It is also an excellent medium to contact the officers with your concerns. Your comments on the website are welcome.

Moving us further into the 21st century we would ask those of you who have access to a computer to think about accepting your copy of the newsletter online instead of a paper copy which when printed out costs us approximately £140 from your subscriptions and additionally the required labour for hand deliveries.

You need not worry about security or spam as our email system is secure. No email addresses are revealed in the process as all email communications are sent blind copy. So we ask you to consider receiving your newsletters by email. If you are not and are willing to change from your paper copy please advise a member of the committee

Leading to the latter part of the year, our activity has focussed on current and potential key planning issues. Namely,

**The Southmere Field.** We know that Southmere is included in the updated December 2016 supplement to the Local Plan, although it remains as a designated site of uncertain potential. Our Planning expert, Ann Griffiths has worked hard researching into the history, relevant planning and other documentation pertaining to this historic ancient meadow. We are registering our concern for the future of Southmere and its contribution towards the local ecology of Langstone.

**Hayling Island Infrastructure Committee.** Our involvement here focussed on the A3023 and the impact on Langstone from the current huge and growing volume of traffic. After attending 3 meetings, it must be said that we are becoming frustrated by the perceived lack of demonstrated outcomes and positive feedback from the various analyses and traffic monitoring schemes undertaken by HBC and HCC given that the proposals are due for completion in June or July.

The Infrastructure Committee was set up by HBC in response to the HBRA (Havant Borough Residents Associations) pressure against development on the green spaces in Havant Borough.

HBRA leaflets were shared between all the Residents Associations. Those allocated to LRA were distributed around Langstone and alerted residents to the impending consultation on the Local Plan Housing Statement which probably helped to swell the large numbers attending on the day. We know that any development on Hayling Island directly affects the A3023 and the consequent adverse effect on Langstone

**Shared Pedestrian/Cycle Pathway Mill Lane to the LTP.** We are pleased that this has resulted in some positive improvements for the road layout at the junction with the LTP and the new bus shelter as part of Stage 1 of this scheme as part of the Section 106 for the development of the hotel. An update on the remainder is unknown.

**Southmoor Flood Risk** Committee members and residents recently attended the exhibition held at the Sailing Club by the Environment Agency to put forward their proposals to alleviate flooding and various pros and cons to the scheme were expressed.

That summarises our activities for this year's AGM and if our Councillors agree I suggest we take comments and questions at their point in the agenda after our comfort break at 8.30.

Finally, there is a need for us to recruit a new committee member, this is ongoing. However, from this year we will have **two vacancies on the committee**. So I will repeat the request that **two new members are now needed** and urge you to think of anyone you know who would consider joining and perhaps come along to a committee meeting for a "recce". There is a lot happening in Langstone and our environment.

I will finish by saying that we like to think that LRA provides a valuable function. The committee works on your behalf by reviewing and researching planning and other matters, communicating with the Council Officers and Councillors and other relevant organisations as set out in our Constitution which, by the way is on our Website for you to read. What a bargain all this is for just £2 a year from each household, but it must be said that unless residents are prepared to step forward and give a little of their time LRA could become less and less effective. We do need two new members on the committee.

That is the end of my statement as Chairman of the meeting and I will hand over to our Honorary treasurer, Neil Paterson.