

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.00 pm  
in the Letherhead Institute.**

**Present:**

Members: Mrs B. Bennett, Anne Brodrick, Caroline Brown, Ray Brown (Secretary), Ann Cardew, Hubert Carr (Chairman), Ayendra Jayesingue, Tom Musoke, Hilary Porter (Vice-chair), Jane Pratt, Paula Sabine, John Shaw, Fay Shaw, Fran Smith, Pat Tate.

Visitors: Audrey Churcher, Christopher Churcher, Percy Hawkins, Cllr David Sharland, Cllr Sylvia Sharland.

**1 Apologies**

Cheryl Allen, Pam Wilson

**2 Minutes of Meeting on 1st February November**

The minutes were accepted as correct.

**3 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Item 7 [Public Art in Leatherhead]

Hilary Porter reminded us that we had another fortnight in which to present proposals.

The Chairman referred to the suggestion that the old Pumping Station be turned into an Arts Museum and/or Gallery; Cllr David Sharland said that as far as he knew the Pumping Station was still functioning. Some discussion followed as to whether it was or not. It was thought that Peter Tarplee of Leatherhead History Society would know and it was suggested that we asked him.

Item 7 [[Child Trust Fund & Child Benefit]

Tom Musoke reported that Elmwood Financial Services in the High Street would give advice on this.

**4. PC Fran Davey and Neighbourhood Watch Leader, Alan Berridge:  
Police update and introduction of No Cold Calling to Leatherhead.**

After introducing herself, PC Fran Davey reported that crime during November and December 2009 was less than in the same period in 2008; significantly, figures for shoplifting had shown drop.

However, there has been an increase in thefts from shops during February of this year. There were seven shoplifting incidents: five people have been arrested, another person is due to be interviewed and a seventh person is yet to be identified.

In that month there was one residential burglary and two business burglaries. Night patrols in unmarked cars are checking the areas in which these burglaries occurred.

There have been many alcohol related incidents of violence, including verbal violence. They have not been related to any one particular licensed premises.

After her presentation, Fran was asked if the local police gave 24 hour coverage.

The answer is no, because there are not enough of them. However, she did explain how car patrols, Safe Neighbourhood Teams, Police Constables and Specials in Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Ashted work together to cover the whole north Mole Valley area.

She also mentioned street meetings of residents and police as well as the Mid-Surrey Mediation Service as ways of helping with specific problems.

Tom Musoke mentioned dangerous parking and speeding in Reigate Road and Highlands Road. Fran said the police would liaise with the Highways Authority over this.

Percy Hawkins asked at what time the police patrolled Kingston House Gardens. He pointed out this estate had been intended only for pensioners; now there was no warden and single parent families were also being housed there. There were problems with drugs, drink and offensive language. Fran said that they did not patrol places at the same set times, and she offered to follow up on a specific problem raised by Mr Hawkins.

The Chairman thanked PC Fran Davey for her report, and she left with her assistant, PCSO Hermione Pilbrow.

Alan Berridge first introduced himself to the meeting and then went on to talk about No Cold Calling Zones. These had already been introduced in Bookham, Fetcham and Ashted; it was now intended to include Leatherhead. A meeting will be held on wednesday, 7th April to inaugurate the No Cold Calling scheme in Leatherhead and No Cold Calling packs will be handed out. The intention was not to prevent all calling, such as canvassing for candidates at election times or people collecting for genuine charities, but to dissuade unwanted callers such as (bogus) tradesmen.

Alan was asked what one should do if, despite the notice, such a tradesman called. He said the person should be turned away and the matter reported to him at Leatherhead Police Station.

He was asked if No Cold Calling covered people who left bags for clothing to be donated. He replied that it could not cover scams such as these, nor scams perpetrated by telephone or email. People must be vigilant.

The Chairman thanked Alan for his presentation.

## **5. Reports from Sub-Groups**

**(a) Membership** - nothing new to report.

### **(b) Planning:**

Caroline Brown reported that:

- The application to remove the two Cedars of Lebanon in the Red House Grounds which overhang Station Road has been withdrawn.
- There is an application to put up a small extension on the back of house in Byron Place. this is causing concern to one of our members; she will investigate this.
- Last Friday she attended a meeting concerned with Land Allocation

Discussion Document in Mole Valley. A certain number of houses have to be built by 2026 and the Authority has to identify areas where landowners have put forward suitable plots.; this will dig into the Green Belt if necessary. We have until October to comment on proposals.

Paula Sabine said that an application was being made for a liquor license for the former Duxiana premises in Church Street. Did this mean that it now had the go ahead to become a restaurant?

Caroline replied that it did not; the question of a suitable flue had still to be resolved.

Cllr Sharland said such an application did not imply that all other matters had been resolved. The owners were making the application only in hope that the license would be needed.

### **(c) Highways:**

The Chairman reported that:

- he was asking for a sign saying “No Cycling” to be put underneath the present ‘no cycling’ sign at the entrance to Church Walk as the present sign was not understood by all cyclists, and also for appropriate wording to be added to the priority and give-way signs at the nib in North Street as many motorists do not understand the road signs.
- one of our members had complained about bad lighting on the ramp to footbridge across the by-pass and M25 which leads from Leatherhead to Grange Road in Ashted. Councillors had visited the spot and said there was no problem; however, the Chairman had gone there when it was dark and found that although there was a light there, it was placed in such a way that the ramp itself was left in shadow, There Chairman will raise this matter again.
- As for the stairway to the old station in Station Approach, there is to be a meeting with Highways on March 26th to discuss our proposal for removing it.

## **6. Notice of the Annual General Meeting on May 10th**

The Chairman gave notice of the meeting and pointed out that we do need more committee members as some of our present members are having to fulfil two or three different roles and this was not satisfactory.

The Secretary explained that it was on the second Monday of May, as the first Monday is a Bank Holiday. He reiterated the Chairman’s plea for more committee members and pointed out our present committee was significantly smaller than those of neighbouring Residents Societies. He also asked that members spread the word so we get a good attendance.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Percy Hawkins raised again the problems of Kingston House Gardens. He said there was no warden and there were lonely, retired people who were frightened since there were problems with illegal drugs, alcohol, and begging for money (sometimes during the night).

The Chairman said that Mole Valley Housing Association was responsible for

the estate and that these problems should be taken up with one (or more) of the councillors for North Leatherhead. He promised to raise the matter with Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr.

Ann Cardew said that some people in Thorncroft Manor area wished the area to be included the Leatherhead Conservation area.

Caroline said that it was away from the town centre and the other areas close to the centre of Leatherhead that the Council were keen on making Conservation Areas.

The Chairman and some others pointed out that buildings in the area concerned already had various protections.

It was further thought that if any residents there were concerned about Conservation status they should approach the LRA themselves; the matter was taken no further.

Cllr David Sharland briefly explained future police reorganization. Reducing the number of senior police in Surrey will enable 200 extra constables to patrol the Streets of Surrey. But, as he pointed out, this is not as good as it sounds, as *over the whole of Surrey*, and there are 5 shifts to cover; therefore, it takes 5 people to put one extra person on duty 24 hours a day. So they may be one more police officer on duty at any one time in the Mole Valley area.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**The next meeting will on Monday, 12th April (the 5th being a Bank Holiday), at 7.00 pm in the Letherhead Institute.**