

Meeting of LRA Environment sub-committee and Lovely Leatherhead.

Opening remarks by the Chairman of the Executive Committee

1. We must avoid taking responsibility for things others should be doing. Quite often, our job is to remind people of what should be done and to report if things are not being done properly. Occasionally, letters of thanks or appreciation should be sent.
2. Insurance often raises its ugly head when members work outside. SCC has an insurance which covers all environmental activity projects, e.g. our own litter picks and Open Gardens. If they are involved, the SWT should have its own insurance. SCC has verified today that their policy will cover our Litter picking activities if proper risk assessments are made and steps are made to mitigate potential hazards (ie wearing gloves or protective clothing)
3. Our interest in the River Mole has 3 chief facets: 1. Its general maintenance and development which started well before facet 2, the Flooding and 3. The protection of its banks from invasive species like Himalayn Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. Facets 1 and 2 involve, Thames Water, Surrey Wild Life Trust, The Environment Agency, the River Mole Catchment Project and the Lower Mole Project. The results and/or plans for 1 and 2 will not be known for at least a month, possibly longer, so we concentrate of no. 3 and include in it general monitoring like better maintenance of tow paths etc.
4. The Station: as we all know, Cheryl has worked tirelessly over the years to contact the relevant people (v. difficult) and thus to get this area spruced up. Litter picks and emails and phone calls achieved a tidier appearance for the Olympic Games and the Queen's Jubilee, and the Prudential Ride London Ride cycle events. More will be done when the MV Environmental Contracts Officer, Ms. Jackie Lees-Howes, gives us the phone number of the person in charge of Environmental Management at Southern Rail. We also have other ideas which we would like to pursue.
5. Litter: The LRA (to its surprise!) has received a letter from Andy Smith of the CPRE saying that that organisation would like to be involved in a large, well publicised litter pick and are prepared to help financially with its organisation. From complaints and comments, I think that there are four areas to be considered for this: Randall's Road, Bypass Road near the allotments, Teazle Wood and Givons Grove roundabout, both the centre bed and at least 2 roads going off from it. Such publicity

cannot fail to help both organisations. £ from MV(explain MV's Jackie has promised that MV will pay a pound a bag) and CPRE!!

Another idea: for a period of (say) 3 months, every person seen picking up litter will be given a lottery ticket for a small monetary prize, (£5?).

Jackie (see 4 above) is in the process of numbering all MV litter bins. When she has finished, communication about the effectiveness of litter bins will be far easier. (Alan?)

6. Dog Poo: Various small schemes have come to light: 1. “Dog poo fairy” stickers on the bins (free if you write to the right place), 2. Smallish, triangular flags bearing the instruction “Clean it up,” placed near the offending items or in a badly affected area, 3. A stick bearing a message like “If your dog did this, put it(?) in the bin plus a small pic of a dog being put into the bin! 4. A sprinkling of the (magic?) white powder.



7. Flowers and planting: Cheryl has her thoughts on some Autumn planting round the Natwest Bank and in the Duke's Head square. Ideas are still being sought for the position of new trees originally destined for Woodbridge Ave or Woodbridge Grove.

8. Open Gardens for 2015 is in the position of petitioning the owners of certain gardens and of looking for others. Grouping of gardens will be the aim so the day will be less of a hike for those not used to lots of walking.

9. Signage: As was dramatically explained at the earlier Litter meeting, Leatherhead is chronically short of useful signs. The station needs at least two, one on each side, indicating how to get to the town and the site of the river. On the outside of Leret Way, it is (almost unbelievably) difficult for people to find the way in. The river should be signposted by the library, down Bridge Street,, next to Lidl and by the steps on Waterway road, to say nothing of better signage to Common Meadow from the Business Park. Do Fetcham and Bookham have their names on any signs on Bridge Street or Waterway Road? Proper, up to date, maps would also be useful on each side of the station.

The exact designation of the personnel to be assigned to each of the above has yet to be precisely decided.