

Environmental Sub Committee Report for 4th February Meeting

Apologies: Norma Tatham Thompson, Hilary Porter

The committee met at Ann Cardew's house on 22nd January.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the High Street including points made by the two absent members. We were aware that two petitions would be presented to the High Street Advisory Group meeting on 24th January by a representative of the traders in the Town Centre. One petition requested that no street furniture should be used and no parking restrictions should be introduced. The other asked that the hours for cars to enter the High Street should be changed to 4 p.m.

Like the traders we feel that the health of the Town Centre will be impacted by the severity of restrictions. We also think it would be useful to have 4 p.m. opening hours. However, we also have a strong desire to provide a safe way for pedestrians to traverse the pavements. In light of the trader's challenge to decisions made previously by the Advisory Group, we thought that this was an appropriate time to reiterate our own views. Since street furniture was to be discussed we also agreed a description of our chosen style of furniture and lighting. The following report was written with a consensus of opinion. [link to report](#)

It was decided to ask if Fran Smith could attend the meeting of the advisory group and Tim Hall subsequently agreed. A copy of the report mentioned above was left with Rod Shaw.

The second order of business was the discussion of potential dates for a second Leatherhead Open Garden Event. The money raised by this event is used to buy supplies for planters to beautify the town centre.

It was necessary to find out if the Friends of the Parish Church would have open gardens this year. We had been told last year that they might. We had tried to coordinate with them last year and wanted to carefully avoid a conflict of dates and interest. (It was later established that they had decided against the idea for another year).

June is a great month for open gardens and other events as well. With some difficulty we have found a date, Sunday 9th June, that does not conflict with local Village Days or open gardens or the Duck Race. With 7 new gardens this year we hope to optimise fundraising this year in case we are not able to have the event next year.

We discussed the plight of the families on Barnet Close who are still being affected by the noise and fumes from Solus. The Environmental Dept. visited the site for a brief period one day with monitoring equipment and working with Solus employees declared the noise not to be a nuisance. We are being kept informed as the resident carries on the good fight. A petition has been signed and sent to the headquarters of Solus. They have promised to look into the matter. Cllr. Shimmin is also being kept informed. We decided that a note to Cllr Shimmin showing support would be in order.

Forty Foot Road continues to be a problem with a member of the public complaining that she was unable to take her Mother, who lives in the Beeches, for a walk in her wheelchair for fear of potholes. Hopefully we will continue to look for a way forward with Cllr Hall's guidance.