

Environmental Sub-committee Report

for Presentation at the 5th March 2012 LRA Committee Meeting

At the 23rd February meeting of the Environmental group the following issues were discussed:

High Street during this Special Summer

- Via an Email from Louise Bircher we were encouraged to carry on with our efforts to make the High Street look its best for the events this Summer. She identified places we are allowed to plant and tend and suggested that we could add colour to the bed outside the Theatre in Church Street. She also identified the places that will be planted by MVDC and SCC.
- Beyond this we have promised to speak to traders and restaurateurs to make them aware of the colour scheme.
- We now have in our possession a lovely Traders Trophy that was used between 1972 and 1990 to honour the business with the most attractive flower/plant display. We will make traders aware that it will be presented with the recipients' name engraved for 2012.
- Hilary Porter reported that there would be several screens on the High Street, the Red House Grounds, and the Swan Centre. We are, therefore, checking to see that the location of our planters will not be in the way of viewers.
- According to Lucy Hansen the only decorations permitted on the High Street have to be officially licensed products. The exception to this is the display of the Union Jack. The town centre will, therefore, be decorated with Union Jacks most of the summer.
- In light of these guidelines, we have decided to encourage a red, white and blue colour scheme on the High Street. This will match the flags and be appropriate for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The cycle route will be planted in the Olympic colours which are yellow, pink, orange, blue, purple and green.

The Leatherhead Community Garden

By the end of March the community garden will have completed most of the final stages of development. A £20,000 donation to West Hill School by Cargills of Cobham has allowed a 'cabin' (outdoor classroom) to be erected in the garden and also the purchase of gardening equipment, an Orchard, and gazebo.

The £250 Green Mole Forum contribution to the Environmental Committee has enabled the LRA to supply berry plants for the garden's fruit cage. Cheryl Allen has drawn several planting schemes which will be submitted to Rebecca Bevan, RHS Wisley Fruit specialist, for her comments and advice.

Fran Smith and Cheryl Allen will be on hand on the 24th March for a special Family Learning Day when the berries bushes will be planted.

Teazle Wood

As yet, the offers made by the Friends of Teazle Wood for its purchase have neither been accepted or rejected. Lucy Quinnell is taking advice as she cautiously moves toward forming a charity trust. She has written to The Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society and requested they contribute toward the purchase of Teazle Wood. The saving of Teazle Wood is certainly a good use of their funds that meets their stated objective of: "Preserving from disfigurement the rural scenery of Leatherhead and its neighbourhood."

Lucy has sent us her latest press release which will appear in the Spring newsletter.