

## **LRA Forward Planning Group (FPG) Report for 4 January 2016.**

Transform Leatherhead seems to be taking up a very large part of the whole agenda of our meetings this year. The Masterplanners have completed their baseline report and a report of the Stage One consultation results. They have now produced an exhibition of their initial outline ideas based upon what respondents to the Stage One consultation wrote and said what they wanted.

The FPG has discussed and produced its response to the initial outline ideas. After approval by the LRA Executive this response was sent to relevant MVDC Officers and Councillors and also to the Masterplanners.

MVDC and Masterplanners arranged a Reference Group workshop for 17th December to which both the Community Reference Group and the Councillors Reference Group were invited. Because of other commitments there was only about a 50% attendance. Hubert Carr and I attended and the session was chaired by MVDC Deputy CEO, Nick Gray. The Masterplanners were in full force, fielding not only the Nexus planning consultants but also the specialists on roads and transport and also the real estate specialist (a director from Colliers). Because there were fewer of us we did have more opportunity to quiz and discuss their ideas. Participants were split into tables, each table focusing on a particular aspect. Howard and I were on the same table which discussed the roads and access plus, briefly, potential developments by the river.

It was evident that our report on their initial ideas had been thoroughly read and our reservations acknowledged. The project leader, Philippa Curran, went to great pains to try to assuage our reservations.

Another workshop has now been arranged for 7th January, although this time it will be run by MVDC Officers. I hope to attend and it will be interesting to learn whether the previous workshop has modified their ideas.

*John W Wilson*