

# Leatherhead Residents' Association

## Minutes of Open Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 at 7.30 pm

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Kristina Kenworthy, Paula Sabine and Fran Smith.

### 2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last open meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were approved.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### Leach Grove Woods

FC reported that about 330 Evidence of Use forms had been collected for the Village Green application but hoped it would be possible to achieve at least 400. Once signs go up, there will be six weeks in which to object to the application once formally notified. £3000 was mentioned as the possible cost of this action.

#### High Street Advisory Group

No date had yet been fixed for the next meeting.

#### Cycling Issues

An **Ashted/Leatherhead cycle path** was planned but the design of the section along the Linden Pit Path was being reconsidered.

HC continued to liaise with Alan Thornhill (cycling lobbyist) regarding redesign of the walkway beyond Linden Road over the Leatherhead Bypass to accommodate cyclists. This was the result of a private approach to HC but he planned to bring it before the Leatherhead Residents' Association for discussion after 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action: Agenda item for next meeting**

### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

HC said that Mr. Kevin Hurley, the new **Police Commissioner for MV**, would give a presentation to the LRA on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013. HP would book the Abraham Dixon Hall and also invite representatives of the Leatherhead Community Association to attend.

The outcome of the two-day Judicial Review hearing concerning the decision to grant planning permission for a golf course at **Cherkley Court** could possibly be known by the evening of Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June. It was reported that up to four directors of the campaign opposing development planned to attend the hearing. HP reported that the CPRE had requested a donation from the LRA towards its expenses in supporting this campaign but it was agreed that since many of the committee had already made individual donations and because LRA resources were not for this purpose, it would not be appropriate.

### 5. REPORTS

#### Planning Sub-Committee

CB presented the report of the Planning Sub-Committee (see attached).

On 20<sup>th</sup> May FS had met with Councillor Rosemary Dickson and Sarah Nelson, the MVDC Planning Officer responsible for preparing the **Green Belt Review** document to discuss issues relating to two planning applications affecting south Leatherhead. One of these was in respect of the land at the end of Yarm Way, and the other was between Windmill Drive and the A24. CB noted that over 80 sites in Mole Valley had been identified for possible development in the Green Belt Review. Over 20 residents also attended the meeting.

HC commented that one proposed access point to new housing developments from Windmill Drive would be likely to lead to high volumes of traffic in St Nicholas Hill. This was controversial since, although a public right of way, St Nicholas Hill was also an unadopted private road whose upkeep was paid for entirely by residents.

### **Environment Sub-Committee**

CA presented the report of the Environment Sub-Committee (see attached)

Tickets for the **Open Gardens** fundraiser on 9<sup>th</sup> June were on sale and CA presented a sample of the publicity leaflet and asked Committee members for assistance with distribution.

FC reported that the inaugural meeting of the '40ft Potholers' had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and had been attended by over 50 representatives of residents and bodies based in Fortyfoot Road. A campaign committee had been formed to lobby for adoption of the road by the County Council. Councillor Tim Hall reported he had written to the History Society for assistance with researching the road for the purposes of formulating the case for adoption. Sue Iles (residents' representative) reported that the next meeting of the campaign group would be on 6<sup>th</sup> June

### **Publicity and Membership Sub-Committee**

HP presented the report of the Publicity and Membership Sub-Committee (see attached).

The barrow in the Swan Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> May had generated much public interest and many signatories on petitions for the various causes represented. These included the Save South Leatherhead Campaign, the Barnett Wood allotment holders, Teazle Wood, Leach Grove and the Friends of Leatherhead Hospital. Forms had been distributed for the LRA's own membership drive.

HC enquired whether up to date membership cards had been distributed to all.

**Action: HP to ask PS if all membership cards distributed.**

## **6. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

### **Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group**

HP reported the Friends of Leatherhead Hospital had received firm assurances from the local CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) regarding the future of that hospital. It was anticipated that of the 7 hospitals covered by the review only 3 (in South London) would offer Major Acute facilities. To try to allay fears arising from the distance to be covered in serious emergencies, the meeting was reminded of the professionalism and efficacy of the paramedics on ambulance duty, and that many vehicles remain on permanent "standby" in spots like Bocketts Farm roundabout. There were only 3 CCG representatives from Surrey on the Committee that would decide the future of Epsom and St Helier Hospitals, but the Committee's decision had to be unanimous so it was possible that opposition to the downgrading of Epsom Hospital to offer only out-patient clinics and elective surgery might yet prevail. The patient representative on the CCG was keen to canvass the views of local healthcare users and HP could provide contact details to those interested in doing so.

### **Green Belt Review/CPRE Workshop**

HP reported that all 11 districts of Surrey were represented and all said they could not cope with further major housing developments due to the existing weight of traffic on the County's roads. This appeared incompatible with the strong backing given by the Mayor for London to releasing Green Belt land for this purpose.

### **Community Garden**

CA said this would be open on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June as part of the LRA Open Gardens event.

### **Norbury Park**

CA said there were three meetings a year to showcase the estate and she had attended the Summer meeting which included a visit to Swanworth Farm. Farmer Nick Bullen was still there but still trying to get a longer lease agreement for the farm with Surrey Wildlife Trust.

### **Presentation by Green Party MEP**

JH reported on a meeting at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> May when Keith Taylor, MEP, gave a talk highlighting 2013 as 'European Year of the Air' and discussing strategies for improving air quality. MVDC was reported to be within acceptable limits in this respect.

**Action:** HP said she would approach the Nurse at Fairfield Medical Centre to establish if any data has been collected on the incidence of childhood asthma in this area since the opening of the M25. This could be reported at a future meeting of the LRA.

### **Bookham Residents' Association**

FC attended the above AGM as part of her involvement in Bookham Transition and the LRA. She reported high attendance and effective communication with the membership (over 3,000 households). This was achieved for example by encouraging local organisations to have their own web page on the Bookham Residents' Association Website, organising local events themselves such as walks and visits and by approaching individual members to serve on the Committee.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### Duck Race

HP reported this would be held on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June. The LRA had raised money for the Leatherhead Christmas Festival for many years through race sponsorship and the Committee were asked to approve such expenditure again this year. This was carried unanimously by vote.

### Credit Unions

HP explained that the idea of establishing a Credit Union had originated in Leatherhead with the aim of helping two specific low-income/high unemployment areas within Mole Valley, i.e. North Leatherhead and North Holmwood. It had however been enthusiastically taken up by two other councils (Woking and Guildford) with the result that the scheme – known as 'Surrey Save Credit Union' – now operated County-wide with a central office in Woking. Heather Ward was a director and its next conference would be held at Christchurch on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to promote the credit union in Mole Valley. [www.surreysave.co.uk](http://www.surreysave.co.uk).

### Newsletter

CB reported that two articles (concerning the Green Belt Review and Save South Leatherhead) had so far been submitted for the next issue of the newsletter in July and more were needed. Deadline for submission was 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

CA had listed possible topics which could be covered. These included:

- Information on how to use the LRA Blog
- Plastic recycling
- Article on Open Gardens fundraiser
- Updates on Leach Grove and 40ft Potholers campaigns (FC)
- Teazle Wood update (establishment of beehives)
- Appeal for LRA members to serve on Sub-Committee groups
- Cherkley Court – report on outcome of Judicial Review
- Item on efforts to landscape and screen waterworks site
- August litterpick
- Report on new projector at Leatherhead Theatre (approach to Tim Cafell, Theatre Manager for article)

#### Kingston House Gardens

NTT said the Mole Valley Housing Association's contractors had removed residents' plant containers without notice and were failing to maintain the previously attractive surroundings of Kingston House. HC said the LRA would write to David Searle at the MVHA to lodge its concerns at the quality of grounds maintenance.

**Action: CB to write to Mr. Searle.**

#### Committee Handbook

FC said it might be helpful for LRA Committee members to have a reference guide with contact details and systems for all committee processes so that no matter who joined or left the committee, it was quick and easy to see what was involved. She said that the outline draft she had prepared was an example only, a starting point.

### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next (open) meeting would be held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.