

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on 3rd February 2014

Present: Hubert Carr, The Chairman, Hilary Porter, the Vice-Chair, Caroline Brown, the Secretary, John Hayball, Ann Cardew, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Cheryl Allen, Kristina Kenworthy, Fran Smith and Roger Hardwick, all Committee members, R.W. Clarke, Bridget Lewis-Carr (MV Councillor), Percy Hawkins, Irene and Ian Seifert, David (MV Councillor) and Sylvia Sharland, Pam Wilson, Jane Pratt, Louise Herry, Christopher Lloyd, David Woodhead, Andrew and Maureen Morek and Tim Hall (SCC councillor).

1. Apologies were received from David Woodhead (but were not needed) and Paula Sabine.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting were passed but there were a couple of questions:

a. Regarding the sites for travellers, it was announced that discussion over this would be deferred by the Council until the summer.????

b. Regarding the progress of the main body of the Consultation, after the 7th March deadline, the Local Planning Working Group will look at it for a few months, then it will come up before the Scrutiny Committee, followed by the full Council and finally before the Executive Committee in late autumn. The last stage is a Public Enquiry.

3. Correspondence : The secretary reported that she had had a number of positive replies regarding the umbrella meeting of the The Mole Green Belt Group. She also read out the Agenda she had put together.

4. Meetings Attended :

1.a. from HC: "Police" turned out to be "[BLeAF](#)", secretary's mistake. Apologies. HC reported that although the Ride London cycle race had raised a considerable sum for local sports groups, it had cost the traders in Leatherhead and elsewhere an even more enormous amount of lost revenue.

1.b. while discussing the need for more housing, it was pointed out that developers would only provide "affordable" homes on developments of 15 or more. Hence their preference/need for larger sites. It was agreed that the N. of MV would need fresh infrastructure on a massive scale to underpin the requirements of about 1,500 people. This led to the suggestion of building an entire new town in the south of the valley.

1.c. A Donkey Derby was proposed for Polesdon Lacey as a follow-up from the Beacon and Fireworks display last year.

1.d. A flood report has been compiled for the whole area and sent to the Environment Agency. Key holders for public buildings should be listed somewhere obvious.

1.e. Ashted reported that Tesco had still not made any move. Fetcham reported that Sainsbury's had installed a defibrillator in their new store.

2. NTT had been to [the Church Street meeting](#). She reported that the architect, (Colin Davis) who had been asked to think of ways to rejuvenate the area, felt it would be better to start again by flattening out the flower beds and removing the trees. The space could then be used as required, a market one day, a car park another. However, care would have to be exercised as, on occasions, 400 people come out of the Theatre at once which could make a market or car park extremely difficult. Flowers and replacement trees were requested. There is to be a public consultation. Everything is still very fluid.

3. HC spoke about the LRA's meeting with Barratt homes. They were particularly anxious to point out that their homes would be attractively laid out and that there would be main "arterial" road (Sec's words, not theirs) running down the middle suitable for buses and that the homes would be in branches off that. They also said that they were prepared to pay for a traffic scheme to reduce the tail backs on all sides of the Knoll Roundabout.

4. HP spoke about "Surrey Community Action," which, in its essence is voluntary action from the wealthy in Surrey to fund activities, and, perhaps help for the less fortunate. Its actions are guided by the information contained in the booklet called "Surrey Uncovered," which contains a very large number of statistics about Surrey.

5. CA delivered an optimistic summary of [the second meeting](#) with the Managing Director of the Sutton and East Surrey Water Board. Plans are now definitely afoot to screen the ugly water works. A bank of earth, some 5 metres high, is to be constructed and surmounted by trees.

6. HP reported on the next stage of the "Surrey Hills Community Radio." The directors have now signed a lease on the premises formerly known as Dyers Stationers. Youngsters with few or no qualifications (NEETS) will be able to get some technical training there, and local businesses will be able to advertise on local mobile phones. A low rent will be expected at the start.

Reports from our sub-committees :

1. FS gave a summary of the main items in her [Planning report](#). These were

a. the launch of an Appeal by the owners of 29 Church Road, who want to pull it down.

b. Brook Willow Farm has requested permission to set up a Dog Grooming Parlour.

c. The owners of Highlands House in Windmill Drive want to demolish it and replace it with 6 terraced.

The above, a, b and c have all had letters of objection written about them.

d. a number of offices wish for a change of use, no building involved: Swan House, Wates House and 3 North Street.

e. Finally, the managers of Patchesham Golf Course think that some parts of it should be raised by several feet and to that end want to import vast quantities (168,000 tonnes) of sub-soil or waste whose primary purpose will be to create a large pond to store water. Although saving rainwater to irrigate a golf course is, of course, a step in the right direction, the main point at issue here is the sheer number of lorry movements that would be required to bring the material in.

2. Highways : HC reported that he had yet to hear from Mr. P. Mainwaring about the small maintenance idea put out last year. As regards fallen trees, MV has had reported to them some 850 down and if people saw some roughly sawn at the side of the road they were welcome to take them.

3. CA reported from the Environment Committee that they had drawn up a list of Trees needing protection a matter which is particularly urgent in view of the alterations being discussed for Church Street. It is unclear, at the moment, to whom to send this list.

Because of the flooding, they have received no further information regarding the workshop about the River Mole, nor about Norbury Park.

She also reported that a good number of gardens would be open in the summer.

4. HP reported on a recent decision of the Publicity and Membership Committee to man a table in the Swan Centre every Saturday before the last date of the Consultation so as to make people aware of what could happen to their town. A more [general report is online](#).

7. + 8. Written articles

The Secretary called for a volunteer to write an article for the Ashtead and Leatherhead Local by the 12th of February. KK said she would.

She then asked for any further articles for the Newsletter to be sent to her by 15th February.

9. AOB The Chairman, HC, reported that he had received a request from Mr. Simon Ling for the LRA to sponsor an Independent Candidate in the forthcoming local elections. He felt obliged to refuse, as we are a non-political group.

Cllr. Tim Hall got up to speak about the flooding experienced in various parts of Leatherhead. This had been particularly acute in Fetcham, although certain parts of Leatherhead had also suffered badly. He felt that a Leatherhead and Fetcham Flood Forum should be set up to find answers as to why we had suffered so much.

The meeting closed at 9 pm and the next meeting, a closed one, will take place on Monday, 3rd March at 7.30.