

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE

PRESENT: Committee: Caroline Brown(CB) Chairman, Cheryl Allen(CA), Ann Cardew(AC), Hubert Carr(HC) Vice Chairman, Louise Herry(LH), Ian Seifert(IS), Martyn Williams(MW), John Wilson(JW), Pam Wilson(PW) Secretary.

SCC Cllr. Tim Hall

ACTION

- 1 **Apologies :** Paula Sabine, Fran Smith, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Cllr. Tim Ashton, Cllr. Rosemary Dickson
- 2 **Minutes of Meetings held on 19 October & 4 November 2015:** The Minutes of both Meetings were approved.
- 3 **Matters arising from meeting not covered elsewhere on the Agenda :** **Christmas Lunch:** Members are invited to the Christmas lunch at the Rialto restaurant in Leatherhead on Friday 4th December at 12.30pm. Please see the LRA website BLOG for more details.
- 4 **Chairman's Report :**
 - (i) Companies limited by Guarantee – The Case for a Change to the LRA's Structure: (Report) Martyn Williams' report had been circulated earlier and it has been suggested that the LRA should become an "Incorporated" Association.
The reasons for this are that, as it stands, the LRA Constitution offers no protection financially for either the executive committee members nor for all LRA members individually should any person decide to sue the LRA. Incorporation would mean that members' only financial exposure would be a nominal amount of £1-£10. However, insurance against legal costs still has to be considered. The LRA already has some Public Liability Insurance which may need increasing, but Directors' and Officers' Protection Insurance will also have to be considered.

As regards the Incorporation, there appear to be two options: one is as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and one is as a Company limited by Guarantee. The Charitable option is a fresh plan being offered by the Charities Commission and was suggested by June Robinson of the LCA. They are both similar, but the charitable one is somewhat cheaper.

After discussion the Executive Committee agreed that the LRA should look further into the options including costs, and a Working Party of Caroline Brown, Hubert Carr, Ian Seifert and Martyn Williams would prepare a report for the next Executive Meeting on 7 December.
 - (ii) CPRE Seminar on Housing Truths & Untruths: There were three speakers each with different perspectives on the planning process. Mr.

Working
Party

Chris Robertson, Head of MV Planning, the first speaker, said MV was achieving its housing targets although he did admit that the change of offices to houses without needing Planning Permission was causing difficulty because of the lack of any requirement to provide an infrastructure contribution or to provide any social housing. He also has the task of deciding if "special circumstances" existed which would protect any area of the Green Belt.

"Conservative MP Crispin Blunt and Liberal Democrat Councillor Ian Beardsmore highlighted the threats to Surrey's Green Belt from housing development and airport expansion. Both speakers expressed concern at decisions increasingly being taken by unrepresentative and unaccountable bodies such as the "local enterprise partnerships" which are pushing forward with economic growth at all costs and finding ways to override environmental considerations. They called for local communities to have more say in where and if development goes ahead" (CPRE Report). Perhaps Cllr Beardsmore's most cheerful contribution was to tell us that London was the least densely populated city in Europe and had enough brownfield sites to provide 500K houses for its citizens, with the result that we do not have to fear "London overspill!".

(iii) Red House Gardens/Trees After Cllr. Howard Jones had mentioned at the last LRA meeting that the Red House Gardens were to be looked at for possible re-development, the Chairman said she had done a fairly thorough examination of the tree population in the area. She had counted 108 trees - one huge tree next to Park House and one diagonally opposite are magnificent specimens as are 16 Lime trees parallel with Station Road. These were unlikely to be felled, but during the re-design of the park about fifteen years ago, there were at least 26 Pin Oak planted and even a few pear trees. Since then the North side of Station Road car park has also had a considerable amount of planting including Mountain Ash and Maple. As a community we have spent a considerable amount of money on these trees and they have improved and enriched our pleasant green area.

Bookham and Ashted RAs are worried about the lack of clarity surrounding the imposition of TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) and also the impunity with which some land (or garden) owners can fell really handsome trees, often simply to entice developers. The Chairmen of these organisations and the Chairman of the LRA are meeting with certain members of MVDC to discuss these problems and Caroline Brown said she will be asking what can be done to protect some of the young, but potentially beautiful trees, in the Red House grounds from whatever danger they may fall into as a result of Transform Leatherhead.

CB

5 **Reports from Sub-Committees :**

a) **Environment: (Report)**

- (i) Litter Pick 24 October: There were less volunteers this time in the concluding activity of the 2015 Anti-Litter Campaign. Cheryl Allen said that although there was less litter to pick up, they still filled 30 bags but it was felt that there was an improvement.
- (ii) Leach Grove Wood: A group called Friends of Leach Grove Wood has been formed to protect the future of the woods next to

Leatherhead Hospital as a Village Green and to ensure that it is maintained in a sympathetic way. Documentation has been held by Julia Jarrett who formed the Leach Grove Protection Group in the 1980s. She is now leaving the area and therefore Flip Cargill (who is also leaving the area) has passed on the documentation, supporting the application for Village Green Status, to the LRA (Fran Smith) for safe keeping. This is in the event of a new Campaign starting and knowledge of the whereabouts of these papers is recorded.

- (iii) Planters MW asked how these plantings were funded and was told not by the LRA, but by money raised by the Environment Sub-Committee. It is hoped that a buyer of the florist's building will take on the responsibility for the planters. In the meantime the owner of the New Duke's Head PH has agreed to water the plants.

(b) **Forward Planning (Report)** :

JW reported that the FPG would, hopefully, have copies of the Masterplanners' outline ideas presentation by mid-November. There will be a Forward Planning Meeting on the evening of Thursday 19 November (location and time to be confirmed) when other members of the Executive Sub-Committee will be invited to join the FPG for an initial discussion on these statements. No firm proposal will be put out until after the public consultation in mid-January.

JW said that members of the Executive Committee, together with FPG and John Howarth, are invited to go on the walk taken previously by the Community Reference Group Members and Councillors to Addlestone, Walton on Thames and Woking on **Thursday 26 November** .

Car transport will need to be arranged. Please contact JW if you wish to attend by **Monday 16 November** commencing at 10am and finishing mid-afternoon.

EXEC.

(c) **Highways** :

Tim Hall reported no news yet on the exit from the Catholic Church car park on to Copthorne Road. Garlands Road speed signs are still under discussion.

TH

(d) **Health** :

An email had been received by the Chairman from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) re the change in funding for Public Access Defibrillators (PADs). Thanks to a large grant from the Department of Health, the BHF as from 1 October has greatly improved the funding opportunities for communities to install PADs. The details of the new funding options can be seen on the link <https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/nation-of-lifesavers/about-defibrillators/apply-for-a-defibrillator-in-england>. Discussion took place on where these PADs were situated in Leatherhead, how they worked and other potential locations. PW to send the information to the Swan Centre Manager.

PW

(e) **Membership & Publicity** :

b/f NY

(i) Website: CB reported that the website is being re-designed by John Bleakley with members of the Executive Committee. It is hoped that this will be ready early in the New Year.

CB

(ii) New Membership Form: CB has been working on a new Renewal of Membership form which will include the new subscriptions, a note about Data Protection re members' email addresses and insurance cover. MW suggested that instead of the LRA's objectives, a list of LRA

- achievements should be included. Road Reps will need to be informed of the new subscriptions and CB hoped that this could be included on the new membership form, making two sides to be printed at a cost of £22. A new membership card will also be printed to include the new logo. JW to provide templates for both the new membership form and the membership card. It was agreed a Flyer could be good to obtain new members. JW
- (f) **Planning**: ([Report](#))
- (i) 15/1601 New Care Home – Cleeve Road A decision was needed as to whether FS should write again to MVDC Planning re this application. After discussion and a look at the plan of the development it was decided that another letter should be written voicing the LRA concerns about the density of the development. CB reported that a further strong LOR had been written since FS's report. FS
- (ii) Prime House Approval to change from office use to housing use, but again no social housing within this development (see CB report earlier)
- 6 **Newsletter** : Deferred until February when more will be known about Transform Leatherhead. It was agreed that in future the Newsletter should go online as soon as it was published. JW/CA
- 7 **Ashted & Leatherhead Local** : CB and CA have written about the contribution of Flip Cargill to Leatherhead and the residents. An article will be required for the December edition. Please contact CB CB/CA
ALL
- 8 **AOB**
- (i) Cross Rail: Cross Rail 2 discussed. CB commented that this should include Leatherhead. No knowledge as to its route. It was thought to pass through Kings Cross. As this was very much in the future, it was felt it had no immediate urgency. It was hoped that Transform Leatherhead might take this into account. Tim Hall to report back to the December Meeting. TH
- (ii) (Sub-Committee Numbers) A review will take place early in the new year to ensure that the numbers are in balance. b/f
- (iii) Broken shop windows: Susan Leveritt reported the breakage of at least three shop windows ?????
- 9 **Date of Next Meeting** : Monday 7 December 2015 at Letherhead Institute, Room G6. The LRA Social will take place at the January Meeting on Monday 4 January 2016.