

**LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**  
**at 730 PM at Letherhead Institute**

**PRESENT:** Caroline Brown (CB) Chairman; Ray Brown; Hubert Carr (HC) Vice Chairman, Bridget Carr; Susan Leveritt (SL), Secretary; Cheryl Allen (CA); Louise Herrity (LH); Hilary Porter (HP); Tony Severs (TS); Martyn Williams (MW); Ann Cardew AC); Fran Smith (FS); Percy Hawkins; Evelyn Stanley; RC & JR Lines; Pam Chouls; Sam Bullus; David Woodhead; Eve Sutch; Andy. Total attending 21.

**1 Apologies:** Paula Sabine (PS); Councillor Joe Crome

**2 Introductions** – of all Committee Members

**3 Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January** were approved with two small changes to the FPG entry.

<b>4 Matters Arising:</b> The Chairman hoped that some of the LRA activities would help to defeat the modern scourge of loneliness. She then gave more details of the Tesco's "Bags of Help" scheme which is awarding a total of £5k per month to successful applicants with suitable ideas for community initiative. Good ideas for LRA projects were invited. Open Gardens, Adult Social Care /Care Homes and trees were mentioned. TS cautioned that certain specific trees should be chosen. CA said tree funding might be coming from Tim Hall in the new fiscal year and that we should push our funding case.		ACTION  ALL
<b>5 Chairman's Report</b>		
(a)	<b>LRA AGM is set for 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> with Jack Straw speaking on the Local Plan; also Lucy Quinnell will give an update on Teazel Wood. All welcome. The March meeting, however, will be a closed meeting, ie for Board and Officers only	SL
(b)	<b>Street Light Switch-off:</b> This began on 1 <sup>st</sup> February in residential streets in Surrey as a cost cutting measure. <b>The</b> Chairman had a list of local affected streets and was able to tell several attendees whether their street lights were to be turned off midnight to 5am. FS noted that Kings Head Alley and Neats Alley, in the High Street, should NOT be turned off	FS
(c)	<b>Community Housing Fund: As a result of</b> Government initiative, MV is seeking a building which could house several singles or couples like the Sidney Simmons home in Ashtead. It is for the elderly and vulnerable and is owned by local authority in perpetuity (no right to buy). Anyone with building suggestions should tell CB who would pass it on to the MV contact, Allison Wilks. Also the "Self Build" list is to be pruned to those with area connections or who wish to occupy the house.	ALL
(d)	<b>465 Bus Route, LT Scrutiny:</b> London Transport are considering dropping Dorking from the route and/or making it more of an express route by dropping some stops which are already amply served by buses. The group was asked who uses the 465 and a large majority of attendees indicated that they do and signed a petition to keep the full route.	
(e)	<b>LRA Website:</b> Progress has been made on its redesign, and the new website should be up and running shortly.	
(f)	<b>Volunteering</b> was highlighted in the A&LL article this month. CB reminded the attendees of some of the important jobs needing to be done which take up a minimum of time, just a few afternoons in a year.	
(g)	<b>The Deepdene Trail</b> was presented to the RA's Chairmen who were asked to help promote it. A half hour presentation showed how it is being transformed out of all recognition with many activities planned. Ask CB for booklet or information	
(h)	More <b>Assets of Community Value</b> are sought after Barnet Wood Lane Allotments were included in this category, hoping that it would forestall residential development there. Suggestions made were Leach Grove Woods and adjacent Highlands Allotments. Further thought and suggestions are invited.	ALL

6 Reports from Committees		
(a)	<p><b>Environment Report: (See report attached)</b></p> <p>Fewer Park Rangers are to be employed at <b>Norbury Park</b> as a cost cutting measure. It is hoped that volunteers will help make up the shortfall.</p> <p><b>The Flood Action Group</b> is to meet on 7 Feb where flood victims (there are 29 with problems) will discuss actions. A May report is expected from MV and the Environment Agency.</p> <p><b>Open Gardens 9 July</b> – more gardens still requested</p> <p>The <b>River Mole Catchment Group</b> met recently for updates and information.</p> <p><b>Heroes Wanted</b> for the Great Britain <b>Spring Clean on 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>, 10-12, Meet at the Institute.</p>	
(b)	<p><b>Forward Planning Group: (See report attached)</b></p> <p><b>TL: Sustainable Transport Consultation</b> – although the CRG January meeting was cancelled, Councillors did see a draft report on the consultation. Randalls Road work is the primary consideration currently. <b>Parking</b> consultation is done, the report is due soon. Also, a report on the <b>Clare &amp; James House</b> plan is expected in March. New lighting in the <b>Swan Centre and</b> other improvements being considered.</p> <p>The <b>Flood Alleviation Plan</b> is expected to be implemented by the EA by 2020.</p> <p><b>Kingston House Gardens – Circle</b> are revising their proposal and are speaking with residents only. Tim Hall &amp; Joe Crome went to the meeting. Andy reported that at the recent meeting they mainly explained about their merger with other Housing Associations. The Next meeting will be in Kent. CB will write to Alison Wilks.</p>	CB
(c)	<p><b>Membership: An</b> Above average number of new members was reported, but renewals were slow.</p>	
(d)	<p><b>Highways – Church Street:</b> Not much news about the plans. Granite blocks from China are to be used. Street Furniture needs to be investigated, and drawings need to be seen.</p>	HC, CB
(e)	<p><b>Planning: (See report attached)</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife Aid (S. Cowell)</b> has bought land off the A245 near the M25 bridge along the River Mole. Clearing and consultation are going on but many buildings are planned including residential for the animal hospital. A Planning Application is expected to be submitted early in 2017.</p> <p><b>QEF</b> Planning Application has been revised (the wall of housing).</p> <p><b>Kuoni and Wates</b> have filed “Prior Notification Notice” which allows conversions from office to residential use. (However, Article 4 of the Housing Act can limit conversions of viable, desirable offices to housing).</p> <p><b>Stocks House</b> 9 North St and <b>Harringtons</b> (Bridge St) have issues re parking spaces for Stocks which turn out all to belong to Harringtons.</p> <p>Late decision, <b>Clinton Rd Bungalow</b> has received permission to be rebuilt as a 5 bedroomed property with an annex. LRA wrote objecting to this.</p>	
(f)	<p><b>Spring Newsletter:</b> Time to write articles now.</p>	
7	<p><b>Ashtead &amp; Leatherhead Local:</b> Article on River Mole next month.</p>	
8	<p><b>AOB :</b> <b>TS</b> raised issue about the Urban Tree Policy and that the Tree Officers from the 4 RAs were now to be consulted.</p>	
9	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 7 March at 7.45 – Closed Meeting, Committee only.</p>	

