

## Report from the L.R.A. Planning Sub-Committee.

This year has seen numerous applications for Planning Approval in the town of Leatherhead, among which a good few have been contentious. Many local residents have turned to our Association for help and although some results have been disappointing, most have been a victory for common sense and the area has not been blighted by vast numbers of small dwellings with insufficient parking. Here are the Applications where the LRA was asked to write:

MO/2007/0807 – 4 Poplar Road,. This was turned down on appeal, mostly because of the highway problems.

MO/2007/1970 – “Leckie.” This is a proposal to demolish a bungalow and to build two detached houses on the same spot in Fortyfoot Road. The neighbours all feel that it will result in a cramped, overcrowded development which will only serve to exacerbate the parking problems already in the road. An Appeal against refusal by MVDC is to be heard on 24 November 2008.

MO/2008/1222 – 8 dwellings at 4 to 6 Reigate Road. This was turned down on Appeal chiefly because it was felt that the concentration and size of the development did not fit in with the other houses.

MO/2008/0040 – Raising the roof and increasing the number of rooms in 5 Oaks Close. Although neighbours were not keen on the extra height and size, it was passed.

MO/2008/0191 – 29 Kingston Road. The owners of this house having died, their heirs are now dealing with the property and have been trying to get PP for a detached house in the garden. The Planning Dept. have not approved their plans, because the requisite financial contribution under Section 106 was not forthcoming.

MO/2008/0243 – 17a and 18 Barnett Close. These two bungalows to be demolished and some flats to go in. Residents were chiefly concerned about the flooding which occurs every time there is heavy rain and felt that more concrete would just exacerbate the problem. It was passed, but the LRA remain concerned that not enough action is being taken by MVDC or SCC over their inadequate drains.

MO/2008/1691 – 34 – 36 Randalls Road. Developers wanted to put two blocks of flats where the 3 bungalows are now, near the Lodge house for the crematorium. They were refused as it was considered intrusive, out of character and contained car parking problems.

MO/2008/0243 – Middle Road. Neighbours objected to wooden structures being erected in the front garden of one of the properties. However, the Planning Officer decided that they could stay.

MO/2008/0294/0295/0308/0316 – Permission for tables and chairs to be placed outside at certain times was sought by certain cafes and restaurants. This was a hotly debated issue because of the possible nuisance to pedestrians who would have to walk into the road. However, many people liked the idea.

MO/2008/0376 – Cozy Cottage in Byron Place. A developer sought to give this bungalow another floor and generally to bring it up to date. However, so doing would have infringed the privacy of the gardens of others and would have been rather dominant on the street scene. It was refused.

Another source of anxiety was the multiplicity of large, well lit windows fronting the new restaurants of Prezzos and Caesar's. However, in the event they do not seem to be causing the nuisance that was expected.

The River Path was another subject which absorbed much of our energies and time. Many lessons regarding consultation have been learned and we are now all hoping that it will be as pleasant and practical as it was designed to be and that the kingfishers will return.

As time goes by, fresh problems will inevitably present themselves. It is only by being vigilant and aware that some of these can be avoided. Members are welcome to bring their worries to the LRA and we will do our best to help.

Caroline Brown, Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee.