

Planning Year to April 2014

In the last year there have been many applications to convert premises from office space (mainly above shops) to flats resulting in 56 new dwellings. There has also been a prior notification to convert Wates House, Station Road to 48 flats and an application for the 1st floor of Trident House, Kingston Road to be converted into 9 flats. A further 14 flats are to be built on the old ambulance station site, and 9 dwellings are to be built at Cressall Mead. There is an application to build 38 retirement flats on the old police site. If all these are approved, this will result in 174 new dwellings. The LRA wrote objecting to the 38 retirement flats on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, with too few parking spaces.

There is an application for 70 dwellings on the reserve housing site on Cleeve Road, and approval has been granted for 90 dwellings on land at Therfield School. The LRA submitted letters objecting to both these developments. The Queen Elizabeth Foundation, Woodlands Road, has also submitted an application for 76 dwellings on a site created by moving the existing buildings.

Several applications which the LRA objected to have been refused: The retention of units 9 and 10 Brook Willow Farm, Randalls Road; construction of four dwellings at the rear of 253-9 Kingston Road; construction of a bungalow at the rear of Tall Trees, Headley Road; the demolition of 29 Church road and its' replacement with a block of 6 flats and 2 pairs of semi-detached houses. The last three also went to appeal, and were dismissed.

Letters have been written about the following applications, which however have been approved: Unit 6 Brook Willow Farm, change of use to a dog grooming parlour and construction of 2 bungalows to the rear of 59 Highlands Road and a subsequent application changing the position of doors.

The LRA has written to Surrey County Council objecting to the importation of inert waste over the next two years to Patchesham Golf Centre which will result in very large numbers of trucks on an already very congested road.

In conclusion, over 400 new dwellings have either been approved, or are awaiting a decision in Leatherhead in the last year. Two of the developments, the Police site and QEF, are in the recent 'Housing and Traveller sites plan.'

Fran Smith

Planning sub committee