

# LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LRA MEETING HELD

on **MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 at 7.30 PM at LETHERHEAD INSTITUTE**

**Present:** Caroline Brown\* (CB) (Chairman), Hubert Carr\* (HC) (Vice Chairman), Susan Leveritt (SL) (Secretary), Cheryl Allen\* (CA), Fran Smith\* (FS), Martyn Williams\* (MW), Louise Herrity\* (LH), Ian Seifert (IS), Irene Seifert, Ann Cardew, Ray Brown, Bridget Carr, Roy Allen, Alex Cudliff, Percy Hawkins, Andi & Rory Ryan, Peter Mayor, Stella King, Jenny Christie, Stan Maiden, Ashley Barr, Pam Chouls, Carol Thrift, Lesley Pearce, Ronnie Wedlock, Elaine Arnold, Emma Cussell, Alex Norman, Celia & Alan Thornhill, Sheila & John Baddeley, Annette Gray, Frank Lynes, Evelyn Wightman, J O'Rourke, Tim Jones, Carl & Barbara Leyshon, Daniel Bratton, Diane Gee, Navin Mehta, Fay & John Shaw, Keith Netley, Lucy Quinnell, N. Waters. \* = Director 53 Attended

In Attendance: SCCllr Tim Hall, Cllr Joe Crome, Cllr Rosemary Dickson, Cllr Tim Ashton, CCllr Duncan Irvine

**NB: All reports are available on the new website (it starts with a picture of Town Bridge), on the Association page, bottom right, under the heading Document Archive. Choose the Report and then the year.**

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Paula Sabine, Hilary Porter, Terry Savage, Marion Millross	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017:</b> The Minutes were approved with no changes	
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b> None	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Report (CB) (see full report online):</b> The Chairman advised the group of a number of positive matters, including the newly improved LRA website, encouraging new and renewed membership, and a letter of appreciation with donation attached. She also reported that communication with MVDC is enhanced and supported by regular meetings of the local residents associations with the new MVDC CEO, Karen Brimacombe, or her deputies.</p> <p>Concerns also exist, however. The Royal Oak Pub, in Kingston Road since 1850, albeit closed for some time, was suddenly demolished on 23 November 2017 reportedly without the appropriate approvals. Subsequently, large fires were started on the site. A public meeting has been arranged by MVDC, CEO for 7pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at the North Leatherhead Community Centre. Other concerns listed were: an increasing need for better police</p>	<b>Online</b>

	<p>coverage to match the hundreds of new homes being built, a need evidenced (unusually for Leatherhead) by a robbery taking place in the High Street! Also mentioned was the parlous state of roads, drainage, and the litter situation. Bus service is also an issue with numerous residential developments taking place on or near Randalls Road.—New or improved services are likely to be needed in this area at least. Lastly, the Chairman reported that the formulation of the new Local Plan (Future Mole Valley) is progressing, with a decision made as to the principles of where new homes are to be located. She then asked MW to elaborate.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Planning Group (MW): (see full report online)</b></p> <p><b>The Local Plan</b>-MW reported that in November MVDC decided that the balance of the housing requirement not already identified, will be met within four types of “brownfield” land and three types of “greenfield” land. Unfortunately, the option of satisfying much of the requirement by establishing a new settlement to the south of the District had been rejected. As one of the “greenfield” options is the extension of existing urban areas, MVDC have issued a call for greenfield sites, which will run until early February.</p> <p>Cllr Irvine (the Planning portfolio holder at MVDC) explained that the reason that a new settlement to the south had been rejected was that the Council had been advised that, to be viable, it would need to comprise approx. 5000 homes. Given the housing units already identified, this would provide more units than are necessary.</p> <p>There was a question from the floor as to whether all towns in the District would be considered for expansion. Cllr Irvine confirmed that they would, but made the point that some, such as Dorking for instance, had many more constraints than Leatherhead (Green Belt /AONB land), which made expansion more difficult.</p> <p>Cllr Irvine also noted that, in deciding which types of land would be considered for new housing, the Council had rejected in-town recreation land, which reflected the wishes of many who had voted in the recent consultation. There was then a question from the floor as to whether this meant that the Barnet Wood allotments were, therefore, exempt from possible development. Cllr Irvine replied that he did not wish to discuss specific sites at this stage, as evaluation of all is on-going and it would therefore be premature to</p>	<p><b>Online</b></p> <p><b>LRA – give members assistance to submit objections and comments – websites, addresses</b></p>

	<p>comment.</p> <p>Kingston House Gardens – MW reported that Clarion/Circle’s latest re-development proposals were very much more acceptable than the last scheme, albeit the LRA had sent a letter recommending refinements, which would further improve it.</p> <p>A number of residents from the area expressed concern that whilst they acknowledged the improvement, they still felt that a) their loss of privacy was considerable and b) the probable increase in car usage on the site and the likely increase in deliveries and other traffic would be likely to place an unacceptable burden on the already over-loaded local road network. MW acknowledged that this is a possibility and local residents should lobby Circle in this regard (and MVDC if the proposal becomes the subject of a planning application). SCC Cllr Tim Hall confirmed that anyone with concerns should certainly table such concerns – saying that it can really have an effect.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Planning: (full report online):</b> FS reported that Planning Applications had been REFUSED to ERA, Fountain House, Leatherhead Food and one other, though they will no doubt return with revised propositions. Sadly, however, the revised PA on Grantham House has been approved, despite all objections submitted.</p> <p>New Planning Applications were listed, including one for the Travellers Site on River Lane to become permanent. The LRA and others objected on the grounds that an alternative location must be found for the site.</p> <p>Finally, Roy Allen spoke regarding the Planning Application from SES Water for substantial new development on its Green Belt site on Hawk’s hill. The address is in Fetcham but it is not so visible from there, whereas it is extremely visible from Leatherhead across the valley. The application is for a huge new warehouse to store water treatment chemicals.</p> <p>No less than 60 representations have now been made to MVDC objecting to the plan, and Roy has met with SESs parent company (Sumitomo) management to point out that in addition to the unsightly, industrial presence of the proposed building in a Green Belt location, there is an unacceptable level of danger, due to the steep angle of the hill, of leakage, seepage, or spillage, threatening</p>	<p><b>Online</b></p>

	our river water and air with damage from the toxins and instability from the ammonia and chlorine to be stored. Roy undertook to report further when he has more news	
<b>7</b>	<b>Environment Committee Report</b> - CA gave updates on area organisations' upcoming events and meeting dates – see below	
<b>8</b>	<b>AOB</b> Meetings: 23-25 January – Thorncroft; 21 February – Rye Brook; and 3 March – Leatherhead litter pick. See Environment Report for details.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Next Meeting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>	