

From the meeting of the local RAs with MV.

1. Subjects which have come up since last meeting: Local Plan: Modest additions to rural villages are being suggested; village boundaries are being looked at. It is expected that about 400 dwellings or 5-10% of the overall MV target will come from these expansions.

2. Staff from Advanced Transport Research have already undertaken interviews and investigations into people's travelling and parking habits. They will build a simulation model to help them develop suggestions to alleviate some of Leatherhead's bottle necks and to help the development of Bull Hill/Red House Gardens. MV is also to start talking with infrastructure providers, including highway construction, in Sept. Some results for Leatherhead may arrive around Christmas time. (Car ownership is involuntarily encouraged by the size of MV roads which prohibit buses. Hence more parking is needed.)

3. Transport for Leatherhead will be revealed near Christmas time³. Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP): these will need to be incorporated into the new Local Plan and altered if necessary. With planning applications, it must be understood that "Material Considerations," override all other considerations. However, appeals have not yet been lost on the basis of a lack of land supply.

4. Meetings about the future of Leatherhead High Street have been held in the Mango Bean Café under the Chairmanship of Miranda Virgo. A number of projects are to come out: eg an Economic spotlight on a week or two's business; a Survey Monkey, physical and virtual; a Business input to let people know what is coming up. Casual car parking is also set to be monitored. Emma Day is the new head of Transform and Cushman and Wakefield is the firm charged with directing it. There was mention of (another) cinema.

From the Publicity email sent to me (and, no doubt, other RAs) by Transform. It appears to be an expansion of 4 above:

1. Wed. 17 Oct at 7 pm in the Theatre, with refreshments from 6.30, latest info and q & ans on the latest from Transform.

2. MV is interested in piloting a new Business Reference Group in L'hd. If you are interested, email to economicdevelopment@molevalley.gov.uk As a sort of corollary to that, MV is also seeking the views of the Rural Business Community and would like the people involved to answer their survey www.molevalley.gov.uk/rural before 5pm on Tue. 28 August. Cllr Corinna Osborne-Patterson is aiming to organise an Annual Rural Community Summit focussed on the challenges revealed.

3. Claire House and James House redevelopment: the results of two public exhibitions are being analysed and after the submission of a Planning Application, there will be further opportunities to voice opinions.

4. River Mole Discovery Day on Sunday 30th September when the new temporary defences against flooding will be demonstrated. It will take place between the River and the L'hd Football Club and should be a fun afternoon for all, discovering the delights of the River Mole.

5. Short term leases in L'hd: no. 21 High Street and Swan Centre unit 2 (former Carphone Warehouse) are available and MV is very anxious to let them

6. I am sure everyone is aware of the Heritage days: Over 70 events from 13 to 16 Sept under the heading "Extraordinary Women" and celebrates the 100 years since the end of the Great War. There are FREE tickets for the launch event: a talk about Maggie Greville of Polesdon Lacey given by Sian Evans, cultural historian, journalist and film consultant.. You need to go to or ring the Theatre Box office to get them.

7. Magic Mondays in the Swan Centre: on 6 and 13 August, circus tricks and skills to learn; on 20th and 27th Magic Shows. From 11 am to 3 pm every Monday in August, free and no booking required!

8. Something unusual: a “Pippfest” is to be held on Sunday, 9th Sept from 11 to 6 pm as a showcase for local food, drink, arts and music. This event is to remind locals (i.e. all MV residents), that Pippbrook House is “up for grabs” and the Community Hub there feel it should be the Community which grabs it with both hands and then runs it as a Community Centre.

Other items:

1. Jack Straw from MV has kindly sent me a copy of the criteria followed when selecting a tree for a TPO. If you would like a copy (9 pages), I could email it to you.

The below could be read out as a Report.

2. Three LRA members (the Chairman, Pam Wilson and Chris Pelley) went to the Epsom Hospital Trust meeting on Friday 10th August. It was extremely well attended and the audience was not afraid of asking questions and voicing their varied opinions.

The Chief Executive, Daniel Elkeles, started by saying that his team had done an in depth examination of their estates and assets in order to clarify what grounds they had but didn't use, and what areas they would never use. He then listed some pretty awful defects in the current buildings and felt that sale of some parts would go a long way to rectify these problems. Such as sale would also provide the means to build a Social Care unit, some social housing and some straightforward residential units. He also mentioned the likelihood of a bonus if this hospital trust was able to achieve such positive results. He emphasised that the sale of the parts he had in mind would not jeopardise the possibility of the new Acute hospital being built in Epsom and showed us slides with the relative areas highlighted.

His presentation was followed by a counter argument from Chris Grayling, MP for Epsom and Ewell. Mr. Grayling felt it was too soon to start cashing in on the assets of the hospital and that a wait was necessary to see how the argument over where a new Acute unit should go would pan out. He did, however, agree that a Social Care Wing was a high priority together with some accommodation for staff.

Some people from the audience felt that a high quality building and work areas would ensure that high quality people came to work there, and, thus maintain standards.

A Councillor for Epsom stood up to oppose any sale because she felt any lost land would be regretted in the years to come, especially with the rising population.

Mr. Elkeles said he was hoping Epsom would go from being a 400 bed hospital to an 800 bed one. Also, Epsom is almost unique in succeeding to train up staff to do more demanding jobs. Clinical staff vacancies have been reduced there by 50%.