



DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON MONDAY 5th November at 7.30 PM at Letherhead Institute
Abraham Dixon Hall**

Present: Caroline Brown* (CB); Chairman; Hubert Carr* (HC) Vice Chairman; Susan Leveritt (SL) Publicity Officer; Cheryl Allen* (CA); Louise Herrity* (LH); Fran Smith* (FS); Sheila Baddeley, acting Minutes Secretary; Martyn Williams* (MW); Hilary Porter; Ray Brown; Roy Allen; Anne-Marie Dunn; Peter and Ann Mayor; Frank Lynes; Andi & Rory Ryan; Pam Chouls; Lesley Pearce;W and G Whitman; Carol Thrift; Marion Millnoss; Michael Lewis; Jenny Christie; Linda Baker; Margaret Sims; Terry Savage; Keith Isaac; Pat Harris; Bill Newton; Jennie Newton; Percy Hawkins; Jenny Christie; Beryl Salisbury; Bridget Carr; Robin Waters; L A Russell; S. Phillipps; Margaret Ludford; Percy Hawkins; C.A.Russell; Fred Meynen. * **denotes Director**

In Attendance: MVD Cllr Emma Cussell; SC Cllr Tim Hall; David Munro , Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey (**Guest Speaker**) Total Attending
47

ACTION

1	Apologies: Cllr. Rosemary Dixon, Cllr. Joe Crome, Ian and Irene Seifert, Evelyn Wightman, Pam and John Wilson, Chris and Joan Pelley, Elaine Arnold	
2	Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1 st October 2018 were approved with no amendments apart from adding to the Apologies list.	
3	Matters Arising not listed on agenda. No matters arising	
4	See next page	

<p>4</p>	<p>Chairman’s Report (full report online) CB welcomed the Speaker, David Munro, Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey, and our two councillors, MVD Cllr Emma Cussell, and SC Councillor Tim Hall. (HC reminded all of the necessity of signing in at the desk when entering the Abraham Dixon Hall). CB mentioned that more people in Leatherhead have been writing to her with concerns about planning applications. She confirmed that where appropriate the LRA will lobby on behalf of residents, and that it is gratifying that our work in this field is becoming better known.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to get involved with voluntary work. Epsom and Ewell Food bank currently need volunteers. (All details on their website, epsomewell.foodbank.org)</p> <p>A reminder that the next (and subsequent) meetings will be held in the Methodist Church, Church Road KT22 8AY. There is provision there for limited parking. The High Street and Parish Hall car park are nearby alternatives.</p>	<p>All Seek possible volunteers</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Planning: Fran Smith (see report online) In connection with the item referring to the Royal Oak P.H. ,Cllr Emma Cussell informed the meeting that MVDC are waiting to hear what the owners intend to do now that their application has been refused consent. She also said that in the meantime no enforcement action can be taken by the Council and that eventually MVDC would like to see a strong community element to any revised proposals</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Forward Planning: Martyn Williams (report online)</p> <p>In connection with the Councils proposals for Claire/James House as described during the Transform Leatherhead public meeting in October, MW said that he and other Committee members felt that the proposed block heights of 5,7,7,6,5,4 storeys(as compared with the existing building heights of 3, 4 storeys) are inappropriate in this location. He also said that the Council had admitted that the buildings needed to be this big in order to generate enough capital to not only meet their cost but also generate a substantial sum toward the cost of the riverside park. MW argued that this is not a valid planning consideration and what the council is allowed to build on the site should be the right building for the location, as would be required if the development was being carried out by the private sector.</p> <p>Cllr Cussell spoke to disagree and argued that the development had to generate money in order to invest it in community facilities such as the Riverside Park and other aspects of Transform Leatherhead.</p> <p>MW asked the audience for their views to inform the Committee as to what representation they should make when a planning application is submitted . The majority of the audience thought the height was totally inappropriate. Replies included; “Where else in Mole Valley do we have 7 storey buildings?” “Leatherhead will be left with a white elephant” “Does anyone like what Transform Leatherhead are proposing?”</p> <p>CA responded by reminding the meeting that the entire site was flooded in February 2014. CA stated that the Environment Agency had not yet found a permanent solution for flooding and that if this issue was not resolved, approval would be unlikely to be given.</p>	

7	<p>Petitions for the Return of Free Parking to the High Street. SL thanked those present for signing the USER petition, now with 845 individual signatures, which follows the initial Petition signed by 99 businesses & civic organisations. That Petition was PASSED by the Mole Valley Local Committee at its September meeting, and there is some progress with Transform Leatherhead gathering information to enable further consideration of the request for 2.5 hours of free parking following its use as a Pedestrian Zone. An hour before the Pedestrian Zone ends, the High Street is mostly devoid of pedestrians; there are no afternoon deliveries requiring good vehicles to drive on the High Street; and the Petition Sponsors have engaged with The Access Group, Seeability, and the market traders. Therefore it is thought that most of the potential obstacles to granting the Petition request have been covered.</p> <p>The USER Petition is now on the agenda for the next MV Local Committee meeting, and SL would like as many people as possible to attend the meeting at MVDC, Pippbrook, Dorking on 12th December 2018 at 2.00pm. They may be seated in the main room if they have been given permission to address the Councillors, otherwise there is room in the gallery.</p>	All who signed user petition & can attend
8	<p>AOB:Peter Mayor spoke about on-street parking in Highlands Road. When planning permission is granted for new properties, the impact on parking for existing residents is not considered. 17 parking spaces now have to be shared between more than 30 homes.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Dunn spoke against the planning application concerning the new Chapel development in Reigate Road. This was for 19 rooflights needed for the 18 apartments which had been given prior approval. The LRA agreed to support her at the upcoming meeting of the Council.</p>	
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 7th January 2019 at Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road. New Venue</p>	
10	<p>The Meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m. Notes on the Guest Speaker's presentation follow</p>	

Presentation by David Munro (DM), Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey. DM told meeting that he represents over one million residents in Surrey, all with differing views. He was elected in May 2016 and previously worked as a district councillor in Farnham.

The introduction of body cameras has had a dramatic positive effect on fighting crime and has resulted in an increase in guilty pleas in court. Policing is changing for the better, but he said there is still far to go.

He reported that it costs £240 million to police Surrey and this sum has to cover not only current operational costs but also the pensions of the 2200 retired police officers.

Seven main crimes are dealt with by Surrey Police:

(1) Anti social behaviour (This gets the most complaints)

(2) Burglary – there was a spike in activity about a year ago from well-executed crimes committed by a group from Chile. Recently, however, the rate of burglaries has decreased

(3) Child Sexual Exploitation and

(4) Domestic Abuse (- Police will take CSE and DA very seriously and devote more time to CSE than previously)

(5) Drugs/Alcohol Offences

(6) Fraud (inc. cyber fraud)

(7) Modern Slavery – If anyone suspects this happening in businesses such as nail bars or car washes where there might be illegal immigrants working, get in touch with Surrey police on line.

www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/report-a-crime/

DM reminded the attendees to use 999 only in emergencies. Phone 101 for non-emergencies such as anti-social behaviour. Although police officers might not turn up, these matters need to be reported and recorded to ensure that if problems become persistent they are dealt with.

Tony Russell (TR) questioned why there appears to be a low police presence in Leatherhead, with police mostly being seen in their cars. The Swan Centre has seen thefts from shops and there was a recent burglary at the Turkish Barbers. **DM** said there are 10 PCSO's dealing with the whole of Mole Valley but they do want to recruit more. Surrey is generally a safe county, although he did admit the computer systems need improving. TR also asked about having a yellow telephone installed in the Swan Centre. DM answered that the usage of these phones is extremely low, so this is not thought cost-effective.

DM summed up by saying that although his budget is tight, he believes his force is a hard-working and dedicated team who provide an effective service, given their resources.

