



DRAFT

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Held on Monday 13th May at 7.30 pm at the
Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead**

Present: Caroline Brown, Chairman, Hubert Carr, Susan Leveritt, Cheryl Allen, Louise Herrity, Martyn Williams, , Fran Smith, Fred Meynen, John Cleeve, Audrey Cleeve, Tim Jones, Evelyn Stanley, Bill Whitman, Gill Whitman, David Wells Cole, Cathy Wells Cole, Anne Broderick, Andrew Shand, David Woodhead, Pam Chouls, Geoffrey West, Hilary Porter, John Wilson, Pam Wilson, Ian Seifert, Irene Seifert, Frank Lynes, Stella King, Keith Netley, Michael Lockyer, Carole Tunstill, Maureen Conrad, Andi Ryan, Rory Ryan, Terry Savage, William Thomson, Elaine Arnold, Vivien Pepino, Ginnie Hall, Margit Richards, Terry Richards, John Long, Roy Allen, Marion Millross, Carol Thrift, Lesley Pearce, Jane Pratt, Bernard Salsbury, Michael Lewis, Paul Down, Penny Down, Wendy Allen, Gill Hanson, Pat Harris, Percy Hawkins, Ray Brown, Alison Wood, Duncan Ayimba, Celia Thornhill, Alan Thornhill, Dorothy Stapleton, Stephen Sandiford, Jen Smith, Anne Smith, Gordan Smith, Pauline Russell, Tony Russell

In Attendance: Cllr Rosemary Dickson; Cllr Tim Hall, Guest Speakers Cllr. Keira Vyvyan-Robinson and Dr Mark Jones of Linden House, Ashlea Medical Practice; (Total Attending 71)

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** – Cllr. Emma Norman, Peter & Ann Mayor,
2. **Guest Speaker** – Councillor Keira Vyvyan-Robinson, recently elected representative for North Leatherhead, described her back ground, experience, hobbies and interests and her passion for family services and support, and preservation of the Greenbelt.
3. **Chairman's Report** (report online)
A Carnival is to be held in Leatherhead on 27 May and volunteers to act as Street Marshalls are sought. Help is also needed for the Duck Race on 9 June.
4. **Forward Planning Group Report** – Martyn Williams (report online)
It is anticipated that the Local Plan will be published in late June/early July. There was an update on Transform Leatherhead in terms of the Swan Centre, Clare/James house, Flood Alleviation, High Street, Transport Study and Sustainable Transport. A decision is awaited on the Kingston House planning application.
5. **Planning Report** – Fran Smith (report online)
Decisions were reported on Bridge Street, Hazeldean Station Road, Berkeley house Ryebrook Business Park Bay Tree Avenue.

Applications have been made for 283 Kingston Road, Piazza Firenze, Ambulance Stations and Kinawley, 3 Station Road.

6. **Publicity Report** – Susan Leveritt (report online)

A Petition to re-gain free parking later afternoon in the High Street currently has 1,300 signatures. This issue will be considered further by MVDC.

Race Night was a great success. 87 people attended and the profit of £1,355.00 is to be split equally between Friends of the Leatherhead Parish Church and the LRA. The next event is provisionally booked for 26 April 2020. (Report online under Publicity and Membership).

7. **Police Forum Report** – Tony Russell

75 new police officers are to be appointed but this must be offset against the requirement for significant austerity savings elsewhere. A recent Police Survey concluded that Officers walking the beat do not deter crime but Officers do respond quickly to reports of serious crime such as knife and drug offences and have new powers in terms of Stop and Search. Voluntary training has been offered to Officers in the use of Tasers. More staff have been allocated to answer 101 telephone calls but email is much preferred. A new Police headquarters will be built, financed by the sale of Mount Brown.

8. **Guest Speaker Dr Mark Jones, Ashlea Medical Practice**

Dr Jones said the on-going commitment of the Ashlea Practice is to do their very best for patients and to provide an improving service.

At the moment, however, the practice is experiencing challenging circumstances. Unusually, 40% of the partners have decided to retire at the same time. There have been difficulties in recruiting new staff to replace them and consequently, the existing staff are under considerable pressure.

More people are moving into the area and there are proposals for new housing development locally. But there has been no consideration as to how GPs can meet the increased demand. Councillors were encouraged to engage in discussion, in the future.

Overall demand to see GPs at the Ashlea Practice has rocketed. In 2014 patient numbers were 18,500, in 2019 they are 20,635. The practice is currently operating at full capacity with clinical rooms in use full time.

A decision has reluctantly been taken to cap the lists. This decision was not made lightly but is considered to be essential if the practice is to continue to offer a safe and reliable service. In order to achieve this, a hold will be put on new registrations, for 6 months.

Concern was also expressed about the current premises, which are inadequate. There are 4 years left on the lease and whilst efforts have been made to move elsewhere, the NHS has not proved to be supportive, so far.

These issues must be considered against a transformation that is taking place in the organisation of the health service. Whereas NHS England used to make decisions centrally, future health groups will be integrated with other agencies. Integrated Core Partnerships will work with Trusts, Council and Volunteer Services. Primary Care Networks of GP practices will also work together.

These changes are being made with a view to improving efficiency, meeting local needs and addressing finance linked objectives. At the same time austerity measures affect community

services, and this includes GPs. Such new initiatives further necessitate GP's time, for meetings and planning purposes.

Traditional ways of working are being re-thought and a wider team of health care professionals are becoming involved, so in the future patients can make an appointment to see the most appropriate professional to meet their needs.

Questions

Q: On 2 November the LRA will be supporting Hilary Porter in a Family Health Day at the Institute. In which areas of health should the priorities be focussed so this event can best address both residents and GP overload?

A: Dr Jones recommended that:

- a. for minor illness pharmacies should be the first point of contact, and that
- b. education is offered to parents with a new baby in terms of e.g. childhood illnesses.

Q: Can Leatherhead hospital be more involved in health care?

A: Leatherhead hospital needs a lot of investment to bring it up to standard for long term use.

Q: How can we help to re-negotiate the lease on the existing Ashlea property?

A: There is a reluctance to sign a long lease for a building that is not suited to new practice demands. There is a need for a new fit for purpose building. Patients can lobby on behalf of the practice and the Patients Participation Group can also offer support.

Q: How many more GP's and nurses do you need?

A: There is a need for one full time GP and one full-time nurse, at the moment. But, staffing needs to keep pace with the growing numbers of patients.

Q: If the patient list is being closed where should people go?

A: The list is not closed it is capped. So extenuating circumstance and vulnerable people will still be considered. Others will go to practices elsewhere, such as, Fetcham, Bookham and Cobham.

There was consensus that the Ashlea practice offers a great service and is much appreciated. Dr Jones was thanked for his interesting and informative up-date.

AOB

- a. A bus No. 81 runs hourly between Epsom and St Helier's hospital.
- b. Instances of unsatisfactory waste collection or fly tipping should be reported to MVDC, via their website.
- c. Any concerns about the people turning up for the Derby should be reported.

9. **Date of Next Open meeting** is Monday 1st July 2019

10. The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.