

Chairman's Report for meeting of 1st July 2019

First of all, I would like to welcome you all here tonight. I had originally been a little worried that because the presentation of the Local Plan had been deferred until November, we would have very little to discuss. However, I need not have worried, there seems to be a good haul of local problems and complaints.

Top of the list is the Rubbish collection which does not seem to be happening in parts of our district, not just Leatherhead but Fetcham too. I am going to let our Surrey County Councillor, Tim Hall, explain in more detail. Tim will also talk about the unwanted double yellow lines which have appeared on some roads.

Now, Cllr. Tim Hall to speak.

Moving on to some Planning Issues, I feel obliged to mention that, sadly, we did not manage to get the height of Claire and James house down to four storeys. It was considered that enough had been done to get the number of flats down to 35 from 40 and the maximum height down from 7 to six for a small section in the middle flanked by 5 and then 4 storeys on each side. It has also been brought to my attention that some of the footpaths around the site will be closed during the period of development, but it is not clear which ones.

Meanwhile, via one of our members, we have also had a letter from MV Chief Planning Officer, Jack Straw, who wanted to share with us the update he received recently from the owner of the site on Randalls Road (nos. 57 to 63) where a number of trees were recently felled.

"A couple of weeks ago the owners' contractors started to remove the weeds and brambles. They are then planning to grade the banking to achieve the correct contouring in preparation for the planting.

Their arboriculture adviser has been talking with various nurseries to source the large number of trees required for the autumn replanting. He has shortlisted two nurseries for the 40 large trees and hopes to reserve specific plants in the next week or so. He has also chosen the supplier for the multiple smaller trees.

I shall keep an eye on progress whenever I drive by and ensure that the owner's good words are matched by commensurate deeds so that we see the planting taking place in the autumn."

I took this opportunity to tell Mr. Straw what a dreadful state the Mansion House Gardens were when I walked down to the Duck Race on 4 June. He said he would contact the Parks and Gardens contractor diVerde.

The re-development of Kingston House Gardens is coming up before the DCC next Wednesday and we, the LRA, have been asked to speak and I will do this. *(Although it will be good to have something sorted out for that site, we are very concerned that it may come at the loss of privacy for certain residents in Park Rise. However, inconsistencies in the application have been spotted and a letter has been written highlighting these).*

Two meetings have just taken place last week. One is the Focus Group concentrating on the High Street and the other the Heritage Action Zone group. Members from our Board have attended each of these. Martyn, Hubert and Susan attended the Focus Group and Fran and Martyn went to the Heritage one. They will be giving short résumés of each.

A third important meeting also took place last Wednesday, the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) for Surrey, which Hilary Porter attended. Hilary will also be giving a report and there is further information on the board at the end of the hall.

I would like to bring to your attention the invitation from Angle Property to come and view the Public Exhibition and Consultation event relating to Headley Court. The current houses there are being marketed by Patrick Gardner but there is still a large swathe of land awaiting development. This meeting is to take place next Thursday, 4 July between 3 and 7 pm.

Before handing on to others for our customary Reports, I need to ask if anyone could possibly promise a little help in compiling about three sets of Minutes a year. We already have two such Minutes takers but our third one had to drop out because of a severe health problem. Most of what we say is already on paper or online, it is just the comments and unexpected items which need recording.

I will now call on the usual people for Reports: Martyn, Fran, Hilary and Susan.