



**DRAFT**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30 pm at the**  
**Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead**

**Present:** Caroline Brown\* (CB); Chairman; Hubert Carr\* (HC) Vice Chairman; Susan Leveritt (SL) Acting Minuting Secretary; Cheryl Allen\* (CA); Fran Smith\* (FS); Louise Herrity\* (LH); Martyn Williams\* (MW); Ray Brown; Hilary Porter; Ian Seifert; Irene Seifert; Geoffrey West; Tim Jones; Tony & Pauline Russell; Lesley Pearce; Percy Hawkins; Pam Chouls; Alison Wright; Marion Millross; Carol Thrift; Heather Nielsen; Terry & Margit Richards; Peter Mayor; Jenny Day; Bill & Gill Whitman; Fred Meynen; Margaret Sims; Jane Pratt; Jennie Christie; Roger Hardwill; Jill Rose; David Wall; M Conrad; E & K Walton; S Ritchie; Terry Savage

**\* denotes Director**

**In Attendance:** SCCllr Tim Hall; Cllr Keira Vyvyan-Robinson; Ashley Barr; Ann Clark; Sally & Nigel Edwards; Helen Lawson; Bill Hubb; Lesley Knox. (49 in all)

1. Apologies – Cllr. Rosemary Dickson; Paula Sabine
2. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved with no changes.
3. **Chairman's Report** (report online) CB began her report with the topics of missed rubbish collection (eg Poplar Rd, Cleeve Rd, Holly Court, Elm Drive) and double yellow lines having been installed where not intended.. Cllr Tim Hall commented on both issues. He urged people to report missed collections so that the Council is aware of service defects. He also confirmed that the Council is in intensive discussion with the service provider. As to yellow lines, he is meeting with the Cabinet Member for Environment to address the problem  
Sally Edwards commented that bins are too small and not emptied frequently enough.

CA commented that the change in front of Waitrose from joint loading and parking to loading only, is unnecessary and harmful in view of the critical shortage of free parking spaces. (Wardens have told SL that, contrary to the supposed reason for the change, they were not confused about when tickets could be given when parking was permitted.)

**Action: Follow up with Tim Hall. CB, CA, SL**

CB will speak at the 3<sup>rd</sup> July planning meeting re Kingston House Gardens. Sally Edwards listed several reasons why the project should not be passed: crowding, steepness of the site, traffic congestion, privacy, but the most important being the architecture of the buildings planned.

Responding to the **Chairman's Report** on the contentious grant of consent for Claire & James House, Geoffrey West questioned whether consultations and letters of representation are worthwhile as they seem to be simply ignored. Several others agreed. However the consensus was that sometimes they seem to be effective and that we should continue, in the hope that our work will have an effect.

**4. Forward Planning Group – Martyn Williams** (report online)

After this report which included a comment on the High Street Feasibility and Consultation, SL argued that members should take the opportunity to participate and hopefully vote for Option 1, which provides some free parking spaces on the High Street. By contrast, Guest Ann Clark spoke about how nice it would be to walk down the High Street at night with no cars around. Other attendees feel that this takes too little account of the interests of evening businesses and of residents who have bought or rented flats on the Street assuming that evening parks would remain available. **ACTION: ALL – go to the Transform Leatherhead website and complete the questionnaire about TL plan options for the High Street**

MV Councillor Keir Vyvyan-Robinson said that the difficult Claire/James planning decision was influenced by the fact that there is no Local Plan in place, which results in a “tilted balance” in favour of development. If refused and appealed by the developer, damages could be charged to the local council.

**5. Planning Report – Fran Smith** (report online) Responding to the **Planning Report** by FS, Carol Thrift asked whether the property on North Street being vacated by Wharfside would stay retail? FS responded that a planning application would have to be submitted to change from its current retail use.

Tony Russell objected to so many office buildings being changed to residential use using the “prior notification” legislation. FS pointed out that the Council have prevented this being used in certain areas of the town by adopting the relevant counter-legislation.

**6. Health Report – Hilary Porter** (report online)

**HP's** report (see it online) included highlights on the 10-year Health Plan, and fact that the NHS and Social Services have a plan to co-ordinate their respective functions much more closely.

Tony Russell commented on the short lease time left for Linden House; SCCLr Tim Hall reported that he had spoken at length with Dr Mark Jones after his presentation to the May LRA meeting, and appropriate sites are being sought.

An attendee asked where, considering all the land that Epsom Hospital has sold off, an acute hospital would be able to be built, were it decided that it should be built at Epsom. **HP** responded that it would be in the front, with car parks at the back.

**7. AOB. SL** raised the question of the High Street Post Office, which is due to close within Martin's in October. Apparently Epsom lost its Post Office for a time but it is now restored. **Action: Follow up (Committee)**

A lady attendee commented on the continuing problem of pigeons on the Railway Bridge and wondered when something could be done. Tim Hall confirmed that he is aware of the issue.

**8. Dates to Mark:**

- **5<sup>th</sup> August (Monday) Next LRA Open Meeting**
- **20<sup>th</sup> September Heritage Week Friday afternoon Presentation, AD Hall**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Sept - Saturday all day Heritage Week LRA exhibition, Letherhead Institute**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – Sunday all day Heritage Week LRA exhibition, Letherhead Institute**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> November – Sunday, Happy Health Day, Letherhead Institute**

**9. The Meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.**