



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Leatherhead Residents Association

Held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 at 7.30 at the Leatherhead

Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead.

**Present:** Caroline Brown\* (Chairman), Martyn Williams\* (Forward Planning), Paula Sabine\*(Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Louise Herrity,\* Percy Hawkins, Ray Brown, Hilary Porter, Terry Richards, Maureen Conrad, Lesley Pearce, Jane Pratt, Diana Carr, David Woodhead, Tim Dunsford, Vicky Wallace, Steve Day and Jenny Day.

**In attendance:** Speakers, Jenny Moore and Ruth Shepherd from Be@titude and Surrey Councillor Tim Hall.

1. Apologies received from: Tony and Pauline Russell, Pam and John Wilson, Fran Smith, Bridget and Hubert Carr and Frank Lines.
2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved with no amendments.
3. The Chairman's Report (full report online): The Chairman highlighted the disastrous loss, through death, of two of the LRA's most active committee members.. This has impacted on many aspects of our work. She noted too that the advancing age of many of the Directors and Officers was also making life difficult as the same amount of background work was having to be done by less and less people. She herself would like to pass on the role of Chairman to a younger person sometime next year.
4. Other reports: In the absence of Fran Smith, Martyn Williams **delivered** both the Planning and Forward Planning reports (full reports on line )

Following the Planning report, Hilary Porter asked how parking was to be provided for all the new flats being created, notably those that can now be converted from shops.MW replied that this is certainly an issue which needs to be addressed and had noted reference to the Council considering the matter in Dorking by the provision of reserved spaces within public car parks.

Following the Forward Planning report a member asked what the proposals for the Red House Grounds comprised. MW replied that they were as per the last revision produced by the Transform Leatherhead team-predominantly flats, some offices, some community use and a multi-storey car park.

5. Our Speakers then took a microphone each and explained the work being done by Be@titude and the hopes for the future regarding the previous All Saints School. Be@titude is primarily a very inexpensive shop aimed at the very needy. However, it also provides sustenance for the mind in that casual chatting over a cup of tea or coffee together with other similarly placed people, while the babies and toddlers are happily enjoying their new environment, is a therapy on its own for harassed parents. The addition of some counselling services is the icing on the cake.

As is fairly obvious, work on the former All Saints School, has barely begun but, from various sources, the money is there and our Speakers, Jennie and Ruth, are looking at estimates and making decisions. Three kitchens will be needed and that should test the design skills of anyone. The garden has already been upgraded and is positively inviting, but the other rooms will be used by other, different groups, not necessarily children.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for a most informative talk

6. AOB –The Chairman mentioned some news items of particular interest to Leatherhead Residents and made a number of pleas

a) There will be nightly closure of the M25 between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of August while the overhead pedestrian bridge near the Knoll Roundabout has its parapet repaired. Traffic will be redirected onto the A24/A25/A217 as appropriate

b) Between the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, Heritage Week will take place and be called “Edible England.” There is a wonderful variety of talks and visits, many here in Leatherhead. Find the details online at “Heritage Open Days in Mole Valley “

c) There is to be a parliamentary Boundary Review and it seems possible that Leatherhead and Ashted will join Epsom and Ewell constituency.

d) Could anyone who has not renewed their membership please do so

e) If any member has acquired a new email address could they please advise us so that we can keep our records up to date.

f) If anyone is interested in joining the board or the committee could they please advise the Chairman.

7. Next Meeting- there will be NO meeting in September. The next meeting will be the LRA's AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October, in the Methodist Church as now. As the final draft of the new Local Plan is due out towards the end of September, there should be much to discuss.