

**MINUTES of the Open Meeting of the Leatherhead Residents' Association held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014, at the Letherhead Institute.**

Members of the Executive Committee, members and invited Guests and local Councillors were welcomed to the Christmas social of mulled wine and refreshments followed by the business meeting at 8.15 p.m.

**Present:** Caroline Brown (Chair), Hubert Carr (HC - Vice Chair) Hilary Porter (Secretary), Cheryl Allen (CA), Roger Hardwick, Louise Herrity, Norma Tatham-Thompson, John Wilson. SCC Councillor Tim Hall, Leatherhead Councillors: Bridget Lewis Carr, Howard Jones, Tim Ashton. John Howarth (JH - Chair. Leatherhead Area Partnership), Flip and Ian Cargill & other members and visitors.

**1. Apologies** were received from: Cllr Shimmin, Rod Shaw, Ann Cardew, Kristina Kenworthy, Hazel and Quintin Davis, Fran Smith, Pam Wilson and Irene and Ian Seifert

The chairman apologized for the temporary delay in projection of the Agenda and Minutes.

**2. MVDC's Plan L for Leatherhead** The Chairman reported on the Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December to which an invited audience of Community representatives had come to hear about the forward planning required for the establishment of a Masterplan for the revitalisation of Leatherhead. The plan would involve increased housing, retail space and employment in the Town area. Much of the work co-ordinating various aspects of the Plan would be carried out by the Deputy Chief Executive, Nick Gray. In particular, he would be looking at the stipulated consultation with the public by means of an appointed group of 16 representatives made up of 2 from each of the following organisations:

- The Leatherhead Area Partnership
- The Leatherhead Community Association
- The Leatherhead and District Chamber of Commerce
- The Federation of Small Businesses
- The four N. Mole Valley Residents' Associations.

There would also be 7 named MVDC Executive members and 7 named Project Team members. The Chairman finished her summary with a list of the questions asked at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**JH** noted that the Masterplan brief stressed the importance of the process of consultation and involvement of the community with the appointed Masterplanner. He hoped for autonomy of the group JH hoped for autonomy of the group, self appointed with expertise and experience and with the ability to set its own terms of reference; and with at least two of its members to take part in the selection of the Masterplanner. He said it should - scrutinise, question, and challenge the work of the MVDC Project Team and propose amendments – based on evidence, and the advantages and disadvantages of the Town

There then followed a number of questions and answers all relating to the absolute necessity of solutions to the access and parking problems. HC emphasized both the need for improvement to the infrastructure and also the fact that the Masterplan will need to be good enough to win the real money from the Government. Other areas in the Gatwick Triangle already have their masterplans in place, we are one of the last.

**3. Leatherhead Area Partnership, presented by JWW** – the LAP AGM had taken place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Membership of the Board re-elected included representatives from Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead and the Chamber of Commerce. Cllr. Bridget Lewis-Carr had been elected by MVDC to represent them on the Board and John Wilson's nomination was been confirmed.

The meeting had been informed about the MVDC's progress towards the appointment of the Masterplanner for Leatherhead and the process for community consultation.

**4. Minutes** of the last meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, (available on the Website) were taken as read and approved by the Committee.

**5. Matters arising** Attention was drawn to the new edition of the LRA newsletter, which had been circulated to members and Councillors.

## **6. Correspondence: Closure of Leach Ward, Leatherhead Hospital**

In addition to a local petition, plans were in hand to organise a Public Meeting, to express concerns about the temporary closure of the Ward, subject to a review of Community Hospital provision in the area of Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group. Speakers were to be invited from SDCCG, Central Surrey Health, and the League of Friends of Leatherhead Hospital. (Action: HP)

The closure of the Ward, by Central Surrey Health, due to concerns of maintenance of standards of nursing care pressurized by the lack of permanent staff and reliance on Agency Nursing, had all led to anxiety about the future of Leatherhead Community Hospital itself. SCC councillor Tim Hall (member of the SCC Health Scrutiny Committee) advised that the cost of care of patients in Community Hospitals exceeded the cost of a patient in a Hospital bed. He assured the meeting that as the result of the researches made by Flip Cargill in the process of preserving Leach Grove Woods, it had been confirmed that when the land was sold/purchased, "The land was purchased under the Hospital Act from 1935. (Therefore) it has to be used for Health and Hospital Purposes."

Staff and 10 beds had been transferred to Dorking Hospital and 5 beds transferred to NEECH, the New Epsom and Ewell Community Hospital.

## **7. Reports on Current Actions**

Reports from the Planning, Environment and Publicity groups are available on the LRA Blog under "Agenda." Highlights as follows:

**a.Planning:** Cherkley Court has applied for permission to install a pumping station and transformer.

**b.Environment:** CA advised on the progress of the Litter Campaign in partnership with MVDC. Involvement with two schools would proceed in January (hopefully with a 3<sup>rd</sup>) leading to exhibitions in the High Street. In 2015 fund raising would involve coffee mornings with plant sales instead of an open gardens event. The Leach Grove appeal had reached £2900, £100, short of the required £3,000. (subsequent note: the Appeal has reached its target).

**c. Forward Planning:** HC requested that those submitting much needed ideas should ensure that there was a good reason why the proposal provided a solution to a problem, or why a new provision is essential.

**d.Publicity:** Those attending were asked to give a show of hands to indicate the most popular form of Interest in Social Media advertising. Streetlife was an outstanding favourite amongst those present.

**8. AOB: SCC – Transport Consultation:** SCC councillor Tim Hall assured the meeting that SCC based their planning for future transport contracts on the evidence submitted by those who replied to the questionnaire, which is available both on the website and in paper form.

Concerns were raised over the availability of Oyster Cards and their limitation to London transport bus services. i.e. the 465 bus route. The removal of bus lay-bys was criticised but appears to be an accepted aspect of future highways planning policy.

Rod Shaw's proposals for Church Street, viewed earlier in the day, were discussed but the steps to deal with the slope were not liked.

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**9. Date of the next meetings:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January (Closed meeting), 7.30 - G5  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February (Open meeting), 7.30 – ADH

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.