

Martyn Williams Report for LRA meeting on Monday 8th May 2017

Forward Planning Group

- 1) **The Local Plan.** We are informed that MVDCs report on the work done by them thus far will be issued for consultation later this month.
- 2) **Transform Leatherhead.** Since the last report to February's meeting, the CRG met on March 21st and there was a public meeting on March 23rd. MVDC confirmed that this is likely to be the meeting format for the future with meetings about every 6 months. At the March meetings it was reported that-
 - a. Church Street-works will commence in early April and are likely to complete at the end of September (longer than might be because they are being phased to minimise disruption to traders)
 - b. Swan Centre-MVDC are working on short-term improvements, while they consider the centre's long-term potential. These include improving the car park ramps, the lighting and signage, renewing the lifts, remodelling the rear entrance and applying differential pricing to the different sized car spaces.
 - c. Riverside. MVDC now confirm that the artists' impressions that show a 7 storey building here (as opposed to the current 4) are not just artistic licence (as they had previously claimed) but represent what they actually propose. They confirm that the building is likely to be mostly affordable housing (flats).
 - d. Bull Hill. MVDC are still considering what commercial space is viable in this location. In the meantime they are to carry out traffic modelling in conjunction with Surrey County Council Highways.

Meeting Reaction-at the public meeting there was considerable criticism voiced as to-

- 1) -the lack of progress with any actual work on the ground
- 2) -the current appearance of the town centre

- 3) -the height and form of the proposals at the Riverside and Bull Hill
- 4) -the "threat" that if there was not multi-storey residential development in the town there would have to be development in the Green Belt.

3)-Sustainable Transport Plan. The report is on MVDCs website. In summary the Town Bridge option was rejected. The Waterway Road option is still being investigated and its feasibility will depend on whether a new pedestrian/cycle bridge is possible. The Randalls Road proposal is approved and is seeking LEP finance.

4)-Parking Consultation. The report has been written but not yet published. It is thought that it argues for a net increase in parking to include an urgent increase in long-term parking

5)-Kingston House Gardens. The FPG has heard no more since the end of last year when the owners were reconsidering their proposals.

Report on The LRA Website - The text has been written and a range of photographs has been selected. The web-master is currently deciding which format to use in order to be best able to improve the overall impact of the site. It is expected that a final draft for director approval will be available before the next meeting.