

Environmental Sub-Committee Report for January Presented for the 6th February Meeting Held on the 24th January at Ann Cardew's house

Leach Grove Wood

On 27th January, after extra careful checking and proofreading, the application for Village Green Status for Leach Wood Grove was consigned to the post.

With 116 Evidence of Use statements, a lengthy justification statement of the proposed application, and a history of the site, together with a sworn statement of authenticity signed by a solicitor, the application was submitted. It now remains for the application to be considered and Leach Grove Wood to be designated as Village Green.

Flip Cargill and Fran Smith made a good team to work on the project, but Fran will be the first to confirm that Flip's dedicated pursuit of Evidence of Use statements and determination to get it right the first time has given the application its best chance for acceptance. We await the decision from County Hall.

Fund Raising

It was decided that we should now be contacting people who might be willing to open their gardens to the public on 9th June. At this point we have three gardens promised and are optimistic that other residents will also say yes to opening their gardens. We are trying to make this a walking event with gardens on show between Church Street and Downs Lane. Details will be supplied as they unfold. Volunteers and your ideas will be appreciated.

Making the Town Look its Best for the Olympic Cycling Event

We have been in contact with Louise Bircher, who seems to be the contact person for maximising the appearance of the town at the time of the Olympics. We have had some concern about the unsightly raised bed near the Library on the cycle route. Louise is trying to find out who is responsible for the bed.

Having notified us of the colour scheme and the recommended plants, Louise has assured us that some of the more obvious planters are the responsibility of MVDC and that plants in the right colour scheme are on order.

In light of the fact that the High Street Refurbishment is on hold until after the Olympics, we have volunteered to aid with some planting. Like the council, our funds are limited. We have asked for some inexpensive planters, similar to our trial planters, with a view to help with planting and watering.

We have also volunteered to make shopkeepers aware of the colour scheme and recommended plants in case they would like to plant in the Olympic colours. We have discussed planting cuttings and seeds for use in the above mentioned planters.

Louise has asked us to pass along the information about the colour scheme to residents along the cycle path. To help accomplish this an article should appear in the March LRA newsletter.

Leatherhead Community Garden

The berry cages will be ready to plant in March. We have promised to use the £250 supplied by The Green Mole Forum, in aid of a 'green project', to purchase the berry bushes. It was agreed that I would contact the fruit specialist at Wisley and Ken Muir for recommendations about the number of bushes required and their arrangement in the cage.

Fran suggested that we take advantage of her membership to Wisley to view and select plants.

Teazle Wood

Lucy Quinell continues to look for the best way forward in acquiring Teazle Wood for the people of Leatherhead. She has been advised that charity status should be sought. The first step is to purchase the property and she has made an offer. We await notification of either acceptance or rejection of the offer.

Submitted by Cheryl Allen

Other members: Caroline Brown, Ann Cardew, Fran Smith, Hilary Porter, Flip Cargill

