

## **Minutes of Open Committee Meeting 7.30 5<sup>th</sup> NOV 2012**

### **In Attendance** (total 32)

Committee Members: Hubert Carr (Chair) Hilary Porter (Vice chair) Cheryl Allen, Caroline Brown, Ann Cardew, Flip Cargill, John Hayball , Kristina Kenworthy, Fran Smith,

Other Members: Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr, Cllr Tim Hall. D Lawrence, R Hardwick, P Hawkins, R Grainger, N Grainger, C Evans, Judy Evans, D Summerfield J Summerfield, P Hamilton, M Farnell, J Newton, B Newton, M Branson, R Allen

Non-members: Councillor P Shimmin, M Collier, J Gedling, T Savage, J Flynn,

**1 Apologies for absence:** Cllr D Howarth, Ray Brown, Paula Sabine, N Tatham-Thompson

**2. Minutes of the meeting on 1 Oct 2012:** Item 4.5 amended to (Action HC **to reply to letter**) then were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes:** Letter re the Help Shop (Item 5) not yet written by HC. It was added that there is now a consumer customer questionnaire in the Help Shop.

HC said his action re the cycle crossing at the River Mole was now not required as Cllr Tim Hall was taking the matter up.

### **4. Correspondence**

4.1 John Bleackley (webmaster) asked if we had a policy opposing 'garden grabbing' HC replied there is no fixed policy, and that every application was looked at individually.

4.2 Caremark Midsurrey – a new Home Care Business asking for direction for making their services known

### **6. Guest Speaker: Headmaster Martin Collier, St John's School**

Martin Collier (MC) introduced Jonathan Gedling, the new Estates Manager. MC said the school may have appeared a little aloof in the past, but not

now. Problems such as parking, traffic congestion, and lack of communication with locals have been, or are being listened to and dealt with, and the school is keen to hear all ideas for improvements as well as concerns. There is an open house policy for neighbours to air any issues and regular meetings have been set up with residents from St John's Close and Linden Gardens.

MC has been talking to residents and councillors re problems in Garlands Rd, and has taken on board the council's advice that a larger parking area than first planned is needed to house all school coaches and cars. Linden Pitt path will be repaved by the school in the future. Public transport is encouraged, and next year the school is investing in minibus transport.

The school has grown from 420 to 600 to accommodate girls in all years, with nearly all students now coming from within a 15 mile radius. The maximum size of the school is now 600 – 620 and there are no plans for any further increase as this is the maximum the site can accommodate. Pupil lists are full for the next two years and their reputation is high in all areas; with academic achievement, pastoral care and extra-curricular opportunity a priority. All the Sixth Form students have the opportunity to serve within the community, assisting weekly with many charities.

The old chapel (adjacent to Epsom Road) is to be refurbished in the summer 2013, to create a hall which will be available for use by local schools and community groups. H Porter (HP) asked where the public using the new facility would park. MC replied that they would use the new car park at the rear of the school, and as the venue is small, numbers would be restricted

C Allen (CA) asked about the positioning of the new car park, and was told its' location was dictated by the large all-weather play area. She also asked about the coaches keeping their engines running while stationary, and was told that coaches will have to turn their engines off, and if necessary it will be policed to enforce this.

C Brown commented on the amount of litter by the fencing in St. John's Avenue and suggested a 'litter pick' could be used as a punishment. MC thought this was a good idea. In the long term he would like to see the railings replaced both at the back and front of the school and the entrance and exit on Epsom Road improved for dropping off pupils

CA Expressed concerns about the proximity of the proposed tennis courts to the neighbours. MC assured her that he had visited the residents and had agreed the times that the courts could be used and that if any problems

arose due to balls landing in the gardens they would stop using the courts adjacent to the fence

CA stated that there have been a large number of planning applications from the school in the last 6 years, how much more development is there going to be? MC replied the school will continue to develop the site to increase the standards of the school, but will write to the LRA to invite us to see the plans in the future.

FC asked if the school had an environmental policy, and was assured they had.

CB asked if there was a concert or play which the public could attend could the school inform the LRA so that details could be included on the LRA website. MC was happy to do this.

The meeting viewed the plans of the school and discussed future improvements at the end of the meeting.

## **7. Reports**

[http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Reports\\_November\\_2012.pdf](http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Reports_November_2012.pdf)

### **Publicity and Membership**

The newsletter has gone out and HC has received favourable comments about it.

HP said that a considerable amount of the Town Centre Manager's budget had to be spent on the Cycle Races, so was not available for the Christmas Festivities, and reminded us of the fund raising Concert on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Environment**

[http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/environment\\_November\\_2012.pdf](http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/environment_November_2012.pdf)

CA asked who was responsible for replacing the felled tree at the entrance to Windfield. HP replied it was the responsibility of the leaseholder management committee. CB had a list of trees resistant to Honey fungus which HP will hand on to the relevant people. **(Action CB/HP)**

## **Planning**

[http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Planning\\_November\\_2012.pdf](http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Planning_November_2012.pdf)

C B mentioned the revised application for the replacement of the main building at Dorincourt. The revised design is much more in keeping with the present buildings.

Hague investments have applied for a possible alternative change of use as a restaurant or retail premises. There has been no application for use as a restaurant. They are just trying to keep all possible options open. There was disquiet that this might mean more restaurants. CB has written objecting to this.

Bridget Lewis added that the appeal against refusal for fitting replacement double glazing in Linden Rd was successful.

## **8. Meetings attended by Committee Members**

### **CPRE – Reliable Water, Healthy Rivers**

An article about this meeting was put in our Autumn newsletter.

### **Norbury Park Liaison Group**

CA said she will include this in the next environmental report

### **Mid Surrey LINKs (Epsom Hospital)**

The merger between Epsom Hospital and St Peter's is on hold or off. There is to be a new government Dept. to manage hospitals that have only Trust status. The A & E Dept. at St Helier might be closing. HP will monitor the situation.

### **AGM Mary Frances Trust (clubhouse)**

Thanked for their help with the de-clutter workshop and the litter pick

### **Transition Bookham**

FC said that Transition Bookham's last meeting was based on looking at community projects, and that whilst still meeting based, they are considering following in Dorking transitions' footsteps to become more project based.

HC expressed the opinion that a Transition Leatherhead group should be formed outside the LRA. CA stated the LRA environmental sub group already had more than enough to do and would not be the ones to take on this idea. It was agreed this should be discussed at a later meeting. CA stated that no LRA money had been used for any environmental projects.

### **De-clutter workshop**

This was very well attended and £430 was raised

### **BLeAF**

Epsom Hospital merger.

The abandonment of the Ashford St.Peter's /Epsom Hospital merger was discussed.

### **SEEFA (South East England for Aging)**

If anyone has any issues contact HP as she is trying to influence policy

### **Police Crime Commissioner Candidates at Fetcham Park House**

CB , AC and HP attended. Details of all the candidates are available on the government website

### **Halloween festivities**

HP helped with this, which was reported to be Leatherhead's most successful Halloween event.

### **Highways Road Show, Swan Centre.**

A 5-year plan for improving the roads is being developed, details are on the council website

## **9. Future Meetings and events.**

**MVDC Development Control Committee 7<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**ARA/MVDC Localism at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leatherhead and district forum/LAP AGM Park house 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**Election of PCC 15<sup>th</sup> November**

## **Charity supper and concert by Inside Out 17<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Tickets are to cost £10, with the proceeds split equally between three causes: Christmas lights for the High Street, Teazle Wood and the Community Garden.

### **10. AOB**

#### 10.1 Cherkley Court

Neil Grainger stated he was in support of the Cherkley Court development and asked why the LRA was revisiting it when the Lingard Report had cleared RD, and said he was surprised at the personalisation of the matter. He added that the poll carried out by the Leatherhead Advertiser had been in favour of the development. HC explained that there was nothing personal about the complaint. Roy Allen (RA) explained that the complaint was made because members of the LRA committee were concerned with the manner in which the investigation had been conducted and the conflict of evidence in the report. KK asked Neil Grainger to confirm that he was Bryan Neil Grainger, a director of Straight Line Marketing and co director with Ian Todd, a founder shareholder of Longshot Cherkley Court Limited. She asked why had he not declared his interest in Cherkley Court Development when he wrote a letter of support to the council and named KK as a self-interested person.

T Hall asked what the role of the LRA in this was. It was explained that the LRA was a complainant. Roy Allen added that it is not acceptable for a local councillor to take up the role of a lobbyist; they must listen to all opinions before deciding. KK said under the Localism Act a councillor can lobby and ask for support for a planning application, but they cannot then sit on the Development Control Committee that decided the application without risking the perception of bias in the minds of reasonable people. That was why complaints had been made to MVDC following the 4th April DCC meeting.

HC added that (RD) promoted the planning application at meetings of the LRA and Leatherhead and District Forum, and several people raised complaints so that on 30th April the Standards Sub-Committee considered that the allegations were worthy of investigation. Richard Lingard was appointed as the investigating officer and he interviewed the complainants and RD and others over the course of the summer. His report was delivered

to the Council on 28th September and the Council announced that no further action was required.

At the October meeting, the complainants agreed to put their names to a press release expressing their dissatisfaction with the report and the manner in which the process has been conducted. The report did not provide a reasoned analysis or attempt to evaluate or weigh the evidence before reaching its conclusions. It was believed to be wrong to close the matter, given the substantial body of evidence and conflicting accounts contained in the report, without referring it back to the Standards Sub-Committee for a hearing.

### **Post Meeting Note**

The Advertiser did not use this statement but it did publish Cllr. Dickson's ambiguous comment: "The result of the investigation is that I have been acquitted of every complaint and the unpleasant allegations against me proved to be false and malicious." HC confirmed no false nor malicious allegations were made by the complainants, as was also stated in the report.

### 10.2 Epsom Hospital

David Lawrence was concerned because a friend had told him that Epsom hospital was going to close its A&E dept. HC explained that this was not the case, that the merger is not going ahead, but that nothing has been decided. As mentioned earlier, the A & E Dept. at St Helier might be closing. He will let David know when he has more information.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2012 at 7.30 and will be a short meeting followed by light refreshments.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**