

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of open committee meeting 4th March 2013 at 7.30pm

In Attendance

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

Members and Visitors: Cllr Tim Hall ,
Sheila Sutherland (new), Joy Playford, (new), Percy Hawkins, Roger Hardwick, Roy Allen, David Wells, David Lawrence, John Wilson, Pam Wilson, Ian Seifert, Irene Seifert, Annie Brodrick, Neil Grainger, Rosemary Grainger, Eleanor Dean, Ann Crowhurst, Louise Herrity, John Piddock, Carole Tunstill, Graham Pourtney, J A Weller

1. Apologies

Paula Sabine, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Bridget Lewis-Carr,

2. Minutes of meeting Feb 4th 2013

Accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

Epsom hospital (item 9) Sir Paul Beresford wishes to have a public meeting combined with the Better services Better value meeting. TH says an announcement is due on Tuesday 5th March. Plans should wait until this.

Kingston House Gardens (Item 3) It has been agreed the residents can put planters on the patio. Percy has been given some vouchers as a thank you. A bush will also be planted. There are still problems: a resident has been asked to remove a BBQ from the communal grounds even though it is not his, and there is also an issue with the drains. However Percy is talking with the manager to resolve these issues.

Leach Grove woods (Item 3) FC sent all the information to Ashley Bowes, the solicitor who specialises in Village Green applications. He says a new application needs to be prepared by March 31st, with the neighbourhood more defined and a significant number of questionnaires obtained from that area. If it goes to public enquiry it will not cost more than £3,000. FC was not sure if it was feasible, but TH and KK felt it was worth continuing. FC proposed another possible approach of getting the footpaths designated as official rights of way.

High Street advisory Group (Item 6.3) FS asked TH if a date had been set for the next meeting. TH replied not yet, but would inform the committee when he had one.

Cycle Path TH said that the proposal in the SCC Mole Valley Local Committee agenda to reinstate the cycle path on Epsom Road was unlikely to proceed as the cycle forum is against the current proposals.

4. Correspondence

HC received a letter from highways Dept MVDC responding to his request about the removal of the staircase on the one way system.

5. Members' concerns

Potential development of Barnett Wood Allotments and Green Belt land owned by Merton College adjacent to the M25 junction.

Ian Seifert asked the committee's view on the Green Belt.

CB explained about the requirement for MVDC to find sites for new housing, and that 5 years ago MVDC drew up a document (SHLAA) with sites that could be used. However, more sites now need to be identified to fulfil the target housing requirement by 2026.

MVDC is carrying out a new consultation, the Green Belt Review, to examine the value of different areas of the Green Belt. Anyone can comment on the review online or by a paper form.

Bookham and Ashted will comment via their Neighbourhood Development Plans.

The LRA intends to comment that the few remaining green fields between Leatherhead and Ashted are 'very significant' for the prevention of the two communities merging, rather than the 'moderate' rating given.

It was reported that Jack Straw had said the Barnett Wood Lane Allotments are non-statutory, which implies that legally there is the right to move the allotments to a satisfactory site.

HP stated the allotments are owned by MVDC, and the 100 year covenant protecting them has ended.

Six members of the LRA committee have viewed the proposed new site for the allotments. It is about a 20 minute walk from the present allotments, over a railway bridge. It is a very large open site not very secure and access will have to be through a locked gate. The Horticultural Hut is proposed to be near to the Rye Brook and will not be easily accessible to some members of the Hut in the Leatherhead area. The land is clay, *(post meeting note - We hear from the farmer that the site on the plan for the allotments is light soil)* poor and very wet in places; there is evidence of rabbits and wild life. The M25 is noisy. HP added that mercury pollution from car catalytic converters could be an issue. FC mentioned that one of the Cobham allotments which had been in a similar situation and had hired a solicitor and resisted development.

Roy Allen has put in a Freedom of Information request to MVDC asking who is on the committee handling the potential development of this site and who identified this site.

HC understood that an approach had been made by a third party. The council have advertised the site in the Estates Gazette. They have received no firm offers, but are expecting to receive one later this month, and hope to have a preferred partner by June.

KK said the issue of the Green belt needed to be resolved, and it would be much better if the Green Belt review takes land out of the Green Belt and then strictly apply policy to the land within the Green Belt. This review should have been completed prior to the council advertising sites in the Green Belt.

In response to questions to the allotment holders present at the meeting: None wanted to move to the new site; if the allotment site has to be developed it was agreed it should be housing.

TH said that housing is the least favoured option for this development site. Retail is the favoured option.

CA and KK mentioned the Growth and Infrastructure bill (not yet passed into law) which will enable a developer of a major infrastructure project such as a retail park to apply to directly to the Secretary of State for planning permission.

CB repeated that it's not just about the allotments, it's about what it's doing to Leatherhead. We are already suffering from insufficient parking, and gridlock at certain times of the day.

6. Brief Reports

6.1 Planning

http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Planning_March_2013.pdf

The following additions were made to the report: Brook Willow Farm is appealing the decision to refuse the use of Buildings 9 & 10 as stables.

The house, 'Tall Trees' on Headley road has been refused permission to build a house in the grounds.

Outline planning permission for 70 houses on land at the junction of Cleeve road and Randalls Road has been requested. This site is just within the Green Belt boundary, and was identified in the SHLAA review.

CB has written to the Magistrates opposing the application for a drinks licence and music by the shop Uncle Charlie's

Supplement to Planning Report for 4th March 2013

http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Planning_supplement_March_2013.pdf

Appeals: none relevant

Decisions: (0017) Lloyds Bank can put up 1 externally illuminated, projecting sign.

(0040) The Bungalow, The Fairway: No further action regarding their conversion of a garage into living accommodation.

(1660) Hillcrest, The Downs, some rear extensions and roof alteration, ok.

(0084) The Library can put signs on the pillars outside. (Listed Building Consent)

Running List: (0139) An application to build 70 dwellings on land around "The Farthings" on Randalls Road. This site is about 2.9 ha.

(0205) Lindisfarne, Linden Gardens. Conversion of garage and creation of 1st floor over it to office; the ground floor to contain a gym and a shower room.

(0229) 8 Homelands: 2 storey side extension and single storey rear.

(0245) Beechmead, Yarm Way. 2 storey side extension – revision to plan MO/2012/1632.

Letters written:

1. To the Magistrates Court via the Police regarding the issue of an alcohol licence to Uncle Charlie's.
2. To the Planning Dept. regarding Brook Willow Farm's application to use buildings 9 & 10 for agricultural purposes, ie to house either cattle, sheep or pigs. I asked the relevant officer to check on the capacity available as I feared over-crowding.
3. Again to the Planning Dept. regarding the application to build another house in the grounds of Tall Trees, Headley Road. We have since learned that that application has been refused.

Work done: Following a full sub-committee meeting, an argument has been drawn up against altering the Green Belt designation of the fields in Barnett Wood lane and making further suggestions as to where houses could go.

6.2 Environment

http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/Reports/Environment_March_2013.pdf

CA said the date of the Open Gardens event is June 9th 2013

6.3 Membership and Publicity [Membership & Publicity](#)

HP said notices had been put up publicising the drop in sessions about the allotments, and for the AGM. The drop in sessions had been well attended.

ACTION: HP It was agreed that the LRA would book a Barrow in the Swan Centre to support the Allotment holders in their protest against the relocation of the allotments, to raise concerns over the possible redevelopment of the site, and to advertise the LRA AGM.

ACTION? A leaflet to be delivered to all Leatherhead households advertising the AGM is still being discussed.

7. Past Meetings

CA attended the Community Garden meeting. There are still no toilet facilities (action TH)

8. Future Meetings

9. AOB

10. Practicalities.

AGM Speakers agreed: John Howarth (LAP), Andy Smith (CPRE) and Lucy Quinnell (Teazle Wood)

The newsletter is finished, and has been sent for printing to Ray W.

Constitution change It was confirmed that a proposal to change the name of the sub committees to special interest groups will be made at the AGM, and notice of this is in the newsletter.

Meeting schedule change The change to mixed open and closed meetings was explained, Full details have gone in the newsletter.

July Speaker It was suggested that the Police Commissioner be asked to speak at the July meeting. **ACTION** Write and invite Kevin Hurley P C.

A L L The editor of the Ashted and Leatherhead Local asked for the article to be submitted before the deadline of the 12th. This month's article to be written by HC promoting the AGM and the plans for the Allotment site.

Help Needed Volunteers were requested for administrator/ organiser, newsletter editor, minute's secretary and special interest groups. FC also suggested students from St John's could be invited to help with the newsletter as part of a service project. David Lawrence offered to help on special interest groups. **ACTION** Speak to St John's

Next meeting

Monday April 8 7.30 pm Abraham Dixon Hall. AGM with panel of three eminent speakers .

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

ACTIONS

HP suggested we help Alloment people with barrow plus AGM Fliers

A leaflet to be delivered to all Leatherhead households??

Invite Kevin Hurley in writing to P C to July meeting

Speak to St John's re getting students involved with publicity/ articles etc