

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Open Meeting held at the Letherhead Institute on 1 September 2014

**Present:** Caroline Brown (Chair), Hubert Carr (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Allen, **ACTION**  
Ann Cardew, Louise Herrity, Kristina Kenworthy, Hilary Porter (Secretary),  
Norma Tatham-Thompson, Pam Wilson, John Wilson and Roger Hardwick.

SCC Cllr. Tm Hall, Cllr. Philippa Shimmin, Mike Ward, Jill West, Roger Hardwick, Veronica Hardwick, Percy Hawkins, Audrey Cleeve, John Cleeve, Pat Harris, Irene Seifert, Ian Seifert, David Woodhead, Margaret Ludford, Garry Blackburn, Linda Jennings, Ray Brown

1 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Tim Ashton, Elaine Arnold, Cllr. Bridget Carr-Lewis, Cllr. Rosemary Dickson, Paula Sabine, Fran Smith

2 **Minutes of Meeting held on 4 August 2014:** The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Chairman's Introduction:** The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting and asked for any questions not concerning the talk to be put to a committee member after the meeting.

The Chairman gave information on the following:

**Piggy Race Party:** There will be an event to raise funds for the Leatherhead Christmas festivities. This would be a Piggy Racing Party on Friday 26 September at the Letherhead Institute at 7.30pm. This will be similar to a Duck Race but indoors with plastic pigs instead of ducks. The tickets will be obtainable from Barton's Book Shop at £10 each to include a fish and chips or chicken and chips supper. Posters will be about Leatherhead and more details are on the LRA website. It is hoped LRA members and their friends will be able to attend.

**ALL**

**Litter Pick-up:** There will be a litter pick-up in October. The teams will be working from the M25 Junction 9 along the By-pass towards Epsom Road and from there into Leatherhead. The other team starting again at Junction 9 on to the road going to the Plough Inn, along the Kingston Road, into Leret Way and finish with others at the Institute. CPRE is would like to be part of this activity. It is anticipated that the litter pick-up will coincide with more litter pick-ups organised by Unilever in Teazle Wood and another doing Fairs Road and the recreation ground.

**ALL**

**New Members:** New members are always welcome to join the LRA and September is an excellent time for new members to join as the one year or three year membership runs from January to September and thus September to December is "free". Apart from our Open Meetings of which there are eight this year, there is our highly readable Newsletter which is produced in November, March and July. For those with computers there is

more information on our activities on the Leatherhead Residents Association website. Please do ask your neighbours and friends in Leatherhead to join us.

**ALL**

**Planning:** In the absence of the Planning Sub-Committee Chairman, it was reported that the application to demolish 15 Windmill Drive and to replace with five terraced houses, has been refused. The Chairman asked how many of those present knew where Windmill Drive was located, few showed their hands.

The Chairman also asked how many people looked at the Leatherhead Residents' Association website – again, not many. She encouraged all those with access to computers to look regularly at the LRA website.

**ALL**

#### **4 Reports:**

**Environment Sub-Committee:** CA was asked to give an oral summary of the work the Environmental Sub-Committee had done since the August Open Meeting. The committee is working towards a campaign to improve Leatherhead in as many ways as possible, with the support of MVDC officers, representatives of the CPRE and other interested local people, including Caroline Cardew Smith, Alan Thornhill and Susan Leveritt. Many ideas and possible solutions to problems have been discussed.

**CA**

A proposal for an Anti-Litter Campaign has been drawn up and is now in the hands of MV staff and the Heads of St John's and Therfield schools. Further meetings, reports from various officers, and a date for the Fairs Road Litter pick are awaited. A written report will be produced for the LRA open meeting in October.

**Planning Sub-Committee:** See Report on the LRA website.

**Forward Planning Sub-Committee:** Hubert Carr, with other local groups, will be meeting Yvonne Rees, MV Chief Executive, on Tuesday 16 September.

**HC**

#### **5 Talk by Mr. Peter Mills, MV Historic Environment Officer – How & Why Is Heritage Protected?**

Peter gave a fascinating talk with excellent pictures on the historic buildings in Leatherhead.

He showed a list of Policy Guidance documents and maps which would be helpful to view. He said the definition of a listed building would be a building of special architectural interest (from the point of view of craftsmanship,

design, decoration) or historic significance (being connected with important aspects of England's social, economic, cultural or military history or having close associations with nationally important people), and designated by Central Government (DCMS) on the recommendation of English Heritage. Listed Building Consent is required for works that affect the "special interest" ie alterations but not, normally, repairs and maintenance.

Peter spoke of the range of listed buildings from small objects like the Fetcham Milestone Grade II (19<sup>th</sup>C) to large buildings like Sweech House, Gravel Hill (Grade II, late 15<sup>th</sup>C) and, Grade II\*, The Running Horse PH (16<sup>th</sup>C, a particularly important building of more than special interest). Buildings included the Grade II simple vernacular buildings like the Old Cottage, Bull Hill which is locally significant, to a Grade I building, Slyfield House and Farm (15<sup>th</sup>C of National significance) and many more local buildings, including the Leatherhead War Memorial, the Railway Viaduct, Tombs at the Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Nicholas and the former Thorndike Theatre.

We learned about the procedure for getting buildings listed and possible future listings, buildings at risk, conversions and extensions to listed buildings. He told us about issues he gets involved in, development control and repairs to Listed Buildings.

All in all a detailed and informative talk. To quote Peter, he reminded us "that Leatherhead is still an attractive and historic town with plenty to offer residents and visitors in terms of a pleasant environment in which to live and work and for us all to make the best of the heritage assets that have been handed down to us and to use them in a positive and proactive way to help boost the economy of the town and allow Leatherhead to thrive again".

Caroline Brown thanked Peter for his very full and interesting lecture and after some questions and answers the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

- 6 Date of Next Open Meeting:** The next Open Meeting will be on Monday 3 November 2014 at 7.30pm Room G6 at Letherhead Institute.