



Leatherhead Residents' Association

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2015 AT THE LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE

PRESENT: Committee: Caroline Brown (Chairman), Cheryl Allen, Hubert Carr (Vice Chairman), Ann Cardew, Hilary Porter, Ian Seifert, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Pam Wilson (Secretary), John Wilson.

Members: SCC Cllr. Tim Hall, Augustine Telson, Percy Hawkings, Jenny Day, Steve Day, Keith James, Irene Seifert

ACTION

1 **Apologies:** Louise Herrity, Kristina Kenworthy, Fran Smith, Martyn Williams

2 **Minutes of Meeting held on 11 May 2015:** The Minutes were approved.

3 **Matters Arising:**

4) The Committee was asked to give suggestions for a speaker in October.

8d) Pam Wilson's Plant Bring & Buy Sale coffee morning may not now go ahead on Saturday morning 13 June because so many people away or helping elsewhere. Please contact Pam on 01372 370215 to check.

4 **Correspondence:**

a) Email from Katherine Moore - representing "Hope for a Home Campaign" set up to help the Gypsy and Traveller families gain permission to stay on the River Lane site permanently. This will be their third application as the previous ones had time limitations. She would like to address one of our meetings. The LRA has discussed the problem many times previously and found it very divisive as there appears to be two sets of opposing guidelines to follow. Consequently, it was felt to be a matter for the Development Control Committee MVDC. **CB to write to this effect.**

CB

- b) Email from Sarah Smith at SCC re Timebanking – sharing resources in our communities. She gives an example of Tony 17, offering to teach older people at the local community centre how to use WiliFit to keep them mobile and active. For every hour Tony puts in he earns one time credit which he spends on learning new cooking skills from Jan, another time bank member. **For more information please contact** CTL. www.timebanking.org.
- c) Letter from MVDC re Airspace change trial at Ockham Holding Stack:. It was not thought Leatherhead residents would be bothered, but if residents are disturbed by aircraft noise as a result of the trial, please contact Guy Davies, Principal Planning Policy Officer at MVDC or register a complaint to Heathrow Airport by emailing CTL. noise@heathrow.com
- d) Fetcham RA has sent sample pro forma letters which they send to residents when it receives complaints about foliage extending from these residents' properties obstructing pedestrian footpaths. The LRA thought it more appropriate in the first instance to make contact with the resident and then, if necessary, send a letter followed by contacting SCC. SCC are able to charge for this service.
- e) Letter from Surrey Wildlife Trust which is holding a 2nd Rye Brook Restoration Project Workshop on 9th June at Letherhead Institute from 7.30pm – 9.30pm. **Please contact Emma Berry Surrey Wildlife Trust.**

5 Chairman's Report:

- a) **Residents Associations' meeting with Chief Executive Yvonne Rees on 20 May**. Yvonne Rees said the new Leader of MVDC, Cllr. James Friend (Westcott) places a high value on the area's beauty and friendliness which he aims to both protect and enhance. He also wants to reduce waste and to encourage re-cycling.

Cllr. Vivienne Michael, Deputy Leader and Executive Member

for Community Engagement and Resident Services, said this could be achieved through increasing the already strong local economy and improving the towns and villages.

Planning – MVDC is drawing up a new Local Policy Framework (LPPF) to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Yvonne Rees commented that, with local approval, some sections of the Green Belt could be sacrificed. She emphasised that she did not want Mole Valley “ruled” by “Appeals” after planning decisions are made. They are costly and, overall, not beneficial..

Question: Members of the LRA questioned CB about the Allotment Site.

Answer: It was still under review.

The review of a LPPF was usually a 4/5 year project, which currently had already gone through several stages. Until the new LPPF was agreed the old Plan would still be in force.

Parking: Caroline Brown was assured that the Master Planners were giving a lot of time and attention to the parking in Leatherhead.

Litter: The engagement of a Litter Law Enforcement Officer was refused on the grounds of cost but Jackie Lees-Howe (from MVDC) believed that her actions would have an effect locally and these would be announced in the local press. It was noted that a new National Litter Campaign is now being launched.

Theatre: Despite putting a strongly worded request for some funding for Leatherhead Theatre, this was refused by Yvonne Rees. The Committee hoped that once the Theatre’s Lease was agreed, the Theatre could continue. More attention should be given to the entrance of the Theatre with an illuminated sign, but being in a conservation area this had proved difficult, despite the nearby shops being well lit with their signage.

Airport Expansion: The Gatwick/Heathrow decision is expected in June or July. If Gatwick is chosen this could make “big waves” throughout Sussex and Surrey, if Heathrow, the effect will be more moderate.

Housing: Planning approvals for change of use from “office” to “residential” have given MVDC a year’s supply of housing,

but all must be completed by May 2016.

Cross Rail is expected to extend to Epsom by 2030.

- b) **BLeAF Meeting Friday 15 May:** This is an informal meeting between the Chairmen of Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham & Leatherhead Resident Associations, together with the Chairman of the Leatherhead Area Partnership (LAP). CB reported that both Ashted and Bookham were progressing slowly with their Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). The 26 houses to be built by Linden Homes on River Lane were discussed but have yet to be approved.

6 Reports from Sub-Committees

- a) **Environment – [see Report](#).** The Anti-litter Campaign and Art Exhibition were very successful and this will be published fully in the next LRA Newsletter. In tracking down the various organisations that have responsibility for motorways CA was told that much of the litter on motorways falls off lorries after they have been “emptied”. Therefore, the suggestion to make it mandatory to cover the load may not remedy the problem. Connect Services Plus, the company that cleans the M25 from Exit 1 to Exit 15 and laybys along the way, are consulting with SCC to find solutions to various litter problems. We have asked to be kept informed. Leatherhead Station is a big problem regarding litter and the sub-committee is leading a poster campaign that the CPRE will fund. The station will be targeted first.

A series of Afternoon Teas will be held in members’ gardens – the first being on 10th June which is now fully booked. The second will be on the 5th July **not 12th July as earlier stated**. This will be a themed event to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the publication of Alice in Wonderland – thus a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party. This will be held at Oaklands, 54 Randalls Road, Leatherhead. Tickets can be purchased from Barton’s Bookshop or contact Cheryl Allen (Tel: 01372 370091).

- b) **Forward Planning:** The Group deals with the future plans for Leatherhead including Transform. John Wilson and Hubert Carr represent Leatherhead Residents’ Association on the

MVDC Transform Leatherhead Community Reference Group which meets with the MVDC Team once a month.

JWW quoted from the May issue of “Key Messages to Date”. Over 23,000 post cards are planned to be delivered to homes and businesses across North Mole Valley providing summary information on the Transform Leatherhead Project. These are planned to be posted by the Royal Mail on Monday 8 June. They refer to an on-line survey requesting residents and businesses to complete. The Survey will be in a new website which MVDC hopes will be live by the 5 June. (The postcard posting date will be subject to this).

JWW has had confirmation of the above dates and, in addition, the following dates – 5th June, the MVDC Team will have a stall at the French Market; 11th June, Community Reference Group Meeting; 24th June, Community Reference Group Visionary Workshop; 26th June, Community Planning Weekend which will involve the Masterplanners and MVDC Team talking to commuters at Leatherhead Railway Station, having a stand in the High Street, a walk and talk tour and a Workshop; 27th June, same as 26th excluding railway station. In addition to this confirmed programme, there will be other activities in Leatherhead and surrounding villages.

- c) **Health:** Pam Wilson read out notes on her attendance at the SDCCG Workshop 2 at Leatherhead Hospital on 13 May. The Chair of the Workshop reported on visits to hospital sites, New Epsom & Ewell Community Hospital (NEECH) and Dorking. Both hospitals received patients from Epsom & St. Helier Hospital & Surrey & Sussex Hospitals whose potential for rehabilitation is limited,. Walk In Centres(WiC) were discussed, but looking at the data, the cost,(about £3mn), and the likely effectiveness, it would be difficult to justify the investment as all the groups meeting concluded for themselves.

General opinion was that most could be treated at GP surgeries.

This led to discussion on access to GP services both in and out of hours with improvement to existing services negating the need for a WiC. It was felt that WiCs were not the best option for the areas at present and the money would be better spent

on primary care or GP out of hours services.

The next meetings in June will focus on the current inpatient and outpatient services based at the four community hospital sites. For more information on the above Workshop 2 and future Workshops see <http://www.surreydownscg.nhs.uk>

Hilary Porter reported from an article in the Epsom Guardian (30 April) that the SDCCG has a deficit of £10.7million. which will mean cuts over the next three years, not additional funding for an increasing population.

There is still concern that the SDCCG will concentrate on three instead of four locality areas, connecting each community hospital to a main hospital with no mention of Ashted or Leatherhead. Transport to hospitals for those with mental health problems and general health problems is still difficult and expensive. Pam Wilson said it still appears that SCC do not have the funds to provide a direct service to hospitals in the area for those who can travel independently, but who are vulnerable and elderly.

The AGM for the Friends of Leatherhead Hospital will take place on Wednesday 17 June at 8pm in the Parish Church Hall, Leatherhead.

- d) **Membership & Publicity: Notice Board** – SCC Cllr. Tim Hall has agreed to progress and apply for funding from his SCC MVDC Local Committee allocation towards the cost of a notice board for the LRA. **TH**

Help Shop - Cheryl Allen is following up the possibility of the LRA having an occasional presence in the High Street for publicity by using the former Help Shop Premises. **CA**

Duck Race – The LRA will be supporting the Annual Duck Race on Sunday 28 June and it was agreed that the LRA would sponsor two ducks as usual at a cost of £10 each **LRA**

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Membership - a sample leaflet for house to house delivery was noted for future reference. In Leatherhead it was felt to be less costly if existing members, preferably Road Stewards, could give advice on appropriate houses where residents were permanent rather than those on short term tenancies.

CB/HP

- e) **Planning** – [see Report](#). The meeting with Tim Hall and Fran Smith with residents from Highlands Road was discussed. A recent application to create crossovers through the hedge to allow access for parking was refused on the grounds of safety despite no accident in the last 25 years. Together, the residents are proposing to put in new planning application for three new crossovers and to demonstrate that a large proportion of the residents from both sides of Highlands Road support this change. The LRA would not object. Tim Hall also indicated that local support would influence the decision. **Tim Hall has requested maintenance for the poor state of the hedge.**

TH

- 7 **Newsletter:** Cheryl Allen has agreed to become Joint Editor with John Wilson. **More articles and pictures are required for the next Newsletter by mid June for publication at the end of July**

ALL

- 8 **AOB:** a) **New Logos** – John Wilson has distributed to the Executive Committee the Logos to be used for posters, flyers, etc and also letter headings, **all of which he recommended be saved as templates.**

ALL

- 9 **Date of next Meeting:** Monday 6th July 2015 at 7.30pm in Room G6, Letherhead Institute.