

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LRA MEETING HELD

on **MONDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2018 at 7.30 PM at LETHERHEAD INSTITUTE**

Present: Caroline Brown* (CB) (Chairman), Hubert Carr* (HC) (Vice Chairman), Cheryl Allen* (CA), Fran Smith* (FS), Martyn Williams* (MW), (LH), Ian Seifert (IS), Irene Seifert, Hilary Porter, Ray Brown, Roy Allen, Percy Hawkins, Andi & Rory Ryan, Stella King, Jenny Christie, Stan Maiden, Pam Chouls, Carol Thrift, Lesley Pearce, Frank Lynes, J O'Rourke, Tim Jones, , Daniel Bratton, N. Waters, Ashley Barr, Elizabeth Millross, B. Stonehouse, Linda Shepherd, Tony and Pauline Russell, Geoffrey, Andrew Shand, Brian Hampton, Ray Ward, Roger Hardwick, Tim Hall, Tim Ashton, Gill and Bill Whitman, Terry Savage, Fred Mynen

* = Director 41 Attended

In Attendance: SCCllr Tim Hall, MVD Cllr Tim Ashton

NB: All reports are available on the website <http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk>. From the main menu, click on "The Association" then scroll down to the bottom right, under the heading "Document Archive" ("Click here to enter the archive..."). Choose from the menu at the top what kind of document you want to see and then choose the year.

		ACTION
1	Apologies: Susan Leveritt (Secretary), Rosemary Dickson, Paula Sabine, Terry Savage, Marion Millross, Louise Herrity	
2	Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018: The Minutes were approved with no changes.	
3	Matters Arising: MW noted that two versions of the January 2018 meeting minutes are on the website. It was confirmed that both are the same, but in Word and PDF formats.	
4	Chairman's Report (CB) (see full report online): The Chairman reported on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Royal Oak –CB outlined the content of the recent public meeting regarding the demolition of this pub. CB reported that the meeting concluded with many expressing the view that residents of North Leatherhead feel that not enough attention is directed to the area. CB asked how many of the LRA audience come from north Leatherhead and nearly 50% responded.2. On a related issue CB reported that Lucy Quinnell has suggested that as the owner of the site at the rear of Tesco is not obliged to remove the large amount of rubbish until July 2018, it would be better if the community could accomplish this task well before then, with funds from the owner. SCCllr Tim Hall said that this is not practical as the rubbish has to be removed by a professional contractor (because the quantity is so large and because an authorized dumping site is needed) and the cost will be £20,000-30,000. All relevant authorities are already working in coordination to resolve this problem. One obstacle is that half of the land	Online

	<p>is not registered, so the property ownership is not clear.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Parking at Wesley House – A resident wrote to the LRA seeking help to establish more long-term parking spaces at Wesley House. SCCllr Hall said in fact the spaces have just reverted back to short-term parking because of local needs. Several people at the LRA meeting said the spaces at Wesley House should remain short-term for the doctors’ surgery, etc. 4. Planning with London as a contrast – Some positive perspective: London is planning 65,000 new dwellings p.a. for 2.5 million people over the next 15 years. 5. Urban Tree Policy (For more information go online to https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=17456.) Anyone who is concerned that publicly important or special trees are under threat of removal – such as on By-pass Road – can call 01306 885001 or email to info@molevalley.gov.uk, providing as much detail as possible. Also the LRA needs someone to volunteer as the LRA Tree Officer to focus on this issue-if anyone has any knowledge of trees and is interested in the position please contact CB 6. Planning Enforcement – Mole Valley has only two officers to address cases of demolition or building without permission. It is understood that they are seeking a third officer. 	
5	<p>Crime and Police Presence - Tony Russell reported on increasing crime in Leatherhead, of which many residents may be unaware, including 3 recent knife crimes and a drug arrest last Friday that led to police helicopters flying overhead. He argued that the Town needs a bigger police presence in to ensure that its growth doesn’t lead to bigger crime problems. A room in the town should be allocated by the Council free of charge for this purpose. We should bring these issues to the attention of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey. A petition was circulated at the meeting. SCCllr Hall noted that the biggest challenge is not necessarily allocation of space, but the cost for each police officer.</p>	
6	<p>Environment (CA): (see full report online)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surrey Countryside Partnerships – There is a variety of volunteer opportunities available. For more information, see http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreycountrysidepartnerships. Rye Brook Catchment meeting is Wed. 21st February at the Institute: mole.project@surreycc.gov.uk 01372 743783. A resident asked the time of the meeting: probably 7:30 pm. 2. Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE, https://www.cpre.org.uk/) welcomed the Government’s Environment Plan commitment to require all shops to charge 5p per plastic bag. CPRE also campaign to reduce plastic bottles usage and Green Peace is targetting Coca-Cola on the same issue. 3. Waste disposal, Randalls Road –CA reported that it now seems that the second waste facility along Randalls Road could be an incinerator. SCCllr Hall said 9 sites had been put forward for consultation on waste uses, but not 	Online

	<p>necessarily for any incinerators. In his view it is not likely there will be an incinerator in Leatherhead. CA said that residents had been resisting the possibility of an incinerator for 20 years and should remain vigilant on the subject.</p> <p>4. Next Litter Pick – “Keep Britain Tidy” is nationwide March 2-4. Volunteers are needed for the LRA Litter Pick on Saturday, March 3rd for a 2-hour commitment. Call 01372-370091 or email cherylallen842@btinternet.com</p>	
7	<p>Forward Planning (MW): (see full report online)</p> <p>Swan Centre-it is confirmed that the short-term improvements are delayed but the current plan is that they will start in June and are expected to be completed by October.</p> <p>Traffic Survey –the specification has been agreed with Surrey County Council and procurement is now taking place.</p> <p>MW noted that the speed limit along the new precinct area outside Waitrose is no lower than the standard 30 mph of the road before the traffic lights. He suggested that in light of the nature of this area it really ought to be lower. A resident agreed and made the point that that Church Road in front of the Registry is particularly dangerous: with cars parked on Church Road, only one car can pass through. SCCllr Hall noted that local residents are the worst offenders because they know the roads well. Enforcement is challenging, especially since police are already stretched, as discussed earlier.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that the town centre traffic lights will be properly timed by the end of this week.</p> <p>Several residents discussed the idea of having a weight limit within the town (for example, 7½ ton maximum beginning at The Crescent) so that large lorries have to use the By-pass Road. SCCllr Hall says this would be difficult. The Council studied lorries on Church Street and found there were fewer than they had expected. Most of the lorries were going to destinations within Leatherhead. However, he confirmed that it can be checked again. FS asked if SCCllr Hall could check SatNav guidance to see if it sends people through town or on to the By-pass Road. SCCllr Hall said foreign SatNavs are a problem. Also, when motor-ways are blocked, SatNavs will inevitably send traffic through the Town.</p> <p>Flood Alleviation - Despite earlier assurances, the Environment Agency now say that a temporary remedy will not be available this winter. It is intended that a permanent solution will be agreed by the end of this year. SCCllr Hall says the Agency promised a flood barrier, but then realized they couldn't deliver on that promise. There is a Flood Forum meeting on Thursday at 7:00pm.</p> <p>Sustainable Transport Plan - The redesign of the Randalls Road scheme awaits engagement from Surrey County Council. A resident noted that the Food</p>	Online

	<p>Research site is proposed to provide 230 homes, which would be very difficult for traffic, etc. SCCllr Hall said the planning application had not been approved yet because of access problems, amongst others.</p> <p>Kingston House Gardens – A resident from Park Rise noted that several people have written to the owners, but all have received generic responses saying that more information will be available when a planning application is made. MW undertook to contact the owners for a response to criticisms made.</p>	
8	<p>Planning (FS): (see full report online)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invitation to “Introducing Community-led Housing in Surrey” event at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre on February 22. For more information: https://www.surreyca.org.uk/introducing-community-led-housing-surrey/ To attend, you must register: Tel: 01483 566 072 Ext. 215, Direct: 01483 447115, davidc@surreyca.org.uk 2. Two planning applications are noteworthy: ERA was refused permission to build 117 dwellings in a commercial area on Cleeve Road. The appeal will be heard at a public enquiry on 20 Feb 10 am at the Council chambers in Pippbrook 3. FS reported that since 2001, many more flats have been built in Leatherhead, perhaps to the point where they comprise 50% of dwellings, which is changing the character of the town. 4. Nine dwellings are proposed on Bridge Street. SCCllr Tim Hall notes that the site is quite closed-in with a narrow alleyway, etc. 	Online
9	<p>Highways (HC) (see Chairman’s report online):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problems relating to two bus services (489 and 479) were discussed at a special meeting with Surrey County Council and 4 residents’ associations. Complaints are now moving through official channels, but the operators don’t get funds from the Council, so they’re primarily interested in financial viability. SCCllr Tim Hall says the Council is negotiating various options with bus companies and developers, such as a service from the Town centre to Oxshott, but much of the proposed housing is not built yet, so the operators are reluctant to commit at this time. Tim Hall said it costs £120,000/year to run a service. 	Online in Chairman’s Report
10	<p>Water Treatment Plant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bhb. Roy Allen (RA) reported updates about the Sutton and East Surrey (SES) Water planning application to build another, larger chlorine-dosing facility at the Elmer Water Treatment Works in Fetcham. The issue of dangerous chemical storage at the proposed new facility was highlighted on the front page of the Leatherhead Advertiser. The eyesore for Leatherhead residents is another key issue. Several LRA members met on January 30 with a senior representative of SES, who said they were committed to screening the side walls of both facilities with camouflage paint. However, the white roofs of the buildings would not be screened. RA noted that 12 years of advocacy have yielded this partial victory. The SES representative asked for 	

	<p>residents' preference of green or brown paint. Questions from residents at the LRA meeting included whether the paint would be non-reflective. FS noted that SES's asking citizens without expertise for their preference was not appropriate. There are standard paint colours used for environmental screening, such as in parks. Relevant experts should be consulted, including Mike Lewis, who has experience with screening petrol stations.</p> <p>Other notes/questions from residents included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) SES should be forced to do the screening on the existing facility first, then be allowed to move forward with seeking planning permission for the new facility. (But, in fact, SES say the screening is conditional on planning approval.) (b) Are there any options other than chlorine that could be used?? [Yes, there are.] Our goal is to avoid having such a quantity of chemicals stored in the green belt. (c) After working around chemicals as a scientist for many years, one resident said he developed a condition of "chemical sensitivity," which took 7 years to diagnose and had serious health consequences. (d) SES has submitted 7 applications in 5 years. It appears that they are trying force this application through and appear to show no respect for the Green Belt. (e) What happens to all the run-off from the chemicals? We haven't been told and aspects such as this seem to be veiled in secrecy. For example, there was a recent ammonia discharge into the Mole, but no disclosure. (f) Is there a provision for a bund (retaining) wall to prevent downward flow to the Leisure Centre? Gas can also go down-wind. Has anyone on the Council looked into these issues? (g) How do we get the Environment Agency involved? The LRA Chair wrote to the Agency to ask about their concerns and conclusions. The LRA has not received a response yet. (h) Should we start a petition or take other action? Yes, residents can write to their Councillors on the planning committee, including Duncan Irvine, who are reviewing the application. Focus on the facts, which is all that they will consider. 	
11	<p>AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leatherhead Theatre's new venture - Live, professional repertory is returning to Leatherhead for the last 2 weeks in April and the first week in May. Please support the Theatre. 2. Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group would like your views via an online questionnaire by February 18. Go to: https://www.surreysays.co.uk/deputy-ceo/commissioning/ Don't be intimidated by the apparent length of the survey. Only respond to the short sections that apply to you. 3. "Silent Cinema" – Tony Wynn asks if LRA members would be interested in an outdoor movie event with sound through rented earphones. A few 	

	<p>residents expressed interest. Questions and suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Where else have they done this kind of event? (b) Would it have any adverse effect on the Theatre? (c) Could it focus on young people, such as at the Kingston Recreation Ground? North Leatherhead would be best. (d) Is it a commercial venture? How much would it cost? 	
12	<p>Next Meeting in March 2018 is a closed meeting for the Board. There will be a normal meeting in April, no meeting in May, and the AGM in June with the new MVDC CEO, Karen Brimacombe.</p>	