

**LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**  
**at 730 PM at Letherhead Institute**

**PRESENT:** Caroline Brown\* (CB) Chairman; Hubert Carr\* (HC), Vice Chairman; Ray Brown; Susan Leveritt (SL), Sheila Baddeley (SB); Cheryl Allen\* (CA); Roy Allen; Louise Herrity\* (LH); Ian Seifert (IS); Martyn Williams\* (MW); Fran Smith\* (FS); Alex C. (AC); Percy Hawkins; Emma Cussell; Andi & Rory Ryan; Margaret Ludford; Stella King; E & K Walton; Eve Sutch; David Woodhead; Gill Whitman; Lesley Pearce; Steve Stuart; Bridget Carr; K & T Pike ; J O'Rourke; Elizabeth Millross; Carol Thrift; Pat Harris; Celia Thornhill; Joan Pelley; Frank Lynes; Jennifer Christie; Stan Maiden; Dee Lamb; Terry Savage; Jenny & Steve Day; Helen Tribe. **NON MEMBERS:** Ann Grapsas ; Peter Dry.

\*= Director

In attendance: SCCllr Tim Hall; MV Cllr Rosemary Dickson; MV Cllr Tim Ashton Total attending 47

<b>1 Apologies:</b> Paula Sabine (PS); Hilary Porter (HP)		
<b>2 Minutes of Meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> February (Open meeting) and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (Closed meeting)</b> were approved with no changes. CB reminded those present that all minutes are on LRA website.		
<b>3 Matters Arising – Announcements:</b> Susan Leveritt has resigned as Secretary, but has been appointed as Publicity Officer; Sheila Baddeley has been appointed as Minuting Secretary ; Alex Cudlip has been appointed as Website Assistant ( John Bleackley will continue as Webmaster ); Louise Herrity will take charge of Meeting Attendance records.		ACTION
<b>4 Chairman's Report</b> CB presented her report, covering the following areas: (a full report under "Reports" online.		
(a)	<b>Residents Associations, (L'Head Bookham, Fetcham, Ashtead) meeting with MVDC Executive Officers</b> under Deputy CEO Nick Grey. Speakers were: Colin Kemp (Cabinet member of Surrey CC Highways) reported that the lowering of speed limits on roads of concern cannot be considered because the police say that they aren't able to enforce them; the closure of Young Street for an extended period has been deferred until the school holidays; Government funding for roads works is based on the length of roads in a county and this works against Surrey, which has a very high volume of traffic per length of road - Colin Kemp is advocating fairer methods. Guy Davies, MVDC Local Plan manager, reported that work is well under way. The annual housing requirement for MV is likely to rise from 391 to 441. But constraints such as Green Belt, noise, and Areas of Natural Beauty may permit a reduction. New, smaller housing sites of ½ acre or less are particularly being sought but; they will still be liable for CIL contributions.	
(b)	<b>Police Presence in Leatherhead</b> is a concern of LRA member, Tony Russell. because of the increasing number of new homes in the Town. He suggests there should be 2 PCSOs for Leatherhead, to be based in Swan Centre. A review of recent crime revealed incidents with a number of town centre businesses: WH Smith, Dorothy Perkins, Thomas Cook, Vodafone, Sainsbury. He is circulating a petition to the above effect which can be signed. TR has also written to local schools about his concerns.	Sign petition
(c)	<b>Urban Tree Officer</b> The LRA does not have a Tree Officer, but CA is attending MV meetings on the basis that trees fit into her Environment portfolio. Fetcham have been able to plant 130 trees with the help of The Woodland Trust.	
(d)	<b>Royal Oak Pub.</b> The owner has been advised by MVDC that they are entitled to submit a retrospective planning application for demolition by 4 <sup>th</sup> May. Failing that, MVDC will consider whether they should take enforcement action	
<b>5 Reports from Committee</b>		

(a)	<p><b>Environment Report:- CA-(full report on line)</b></p> <p>reported on the litter pick of 10<sup>th</sup> March, which had had to be postponed from the week before due to snow on the ground. Over 20 people took part with a good result, and there will be a further litter pick in the autumn.</p> <p>David Woodhead reported that he has contacted Leatherhead Youth Football Club, regarding the accumulation of litter adjoining their premises. He has not had a response so far.</p> <p><b>CA</b> attended the recent meeting of the Leatherhead &amp; Fetcham Flood Action Group. There will be a demonstration of the temporary barrier this summer and a consultation on the long-term solution.</p> <p>Norbury Park - recent felling of trees which was pictured on the front page of the Leatherhead Advertiser caused some concern, but was, in fact, part of a carefully planned local programme.</p>	
(b)	<p><b>Planning - FS- (full report on-line)</b></p> <p>reported on Titan's planning application for some 239 flats at the Food Research site in Randalls Way. The LRA has submitted a letter of representation primarily about the height of the tallest blocks .</p> <p>The ERA appeal against refusal of its planning application has been dismissed.</p> <p>A new application on 35 &amp; 35A Bridge Street is for 14 new dwellings accessed by only a narrow alleyway, with no parking. FS has submitted a letter of representation</p> <p>The new owners of the Caesar's Restaurant premises have applied for a new shop front for the building. The existing front is considered, by the LRA, to be more in keeping with the conservation area of Church Street and a letter of representation has been submitted.</p> <p>A member expressed concern about the arrangements for dropping off children at the recently approved nursery school on Station Road. FS said there is an area for this on the premises, but the access is still concern.</p>	
(c)	<p><b>Forward Planning Group - MW- (full report on-line)</b></p>	
(d)	<p><b>Local Plan</b> MW reported the latest position as regards the preparation of this as advised by MVDC. There was discussion as to whether the call for greenfield sites would include greenbelt sites and what was the status of the suggested greenbelt review targeted for Spring 2019. <i>MW subsequently confirmed with MV that Green Field sites will include some Green Belt sites and the review of the latter is currently underway now.</i></p> <p>There was a query as to whether government targets were satisfied by consents or by housing units actually built. <i>Subsequently, MW established from MVDC that Govt. targets are only met by houses actually built and that MV regards this as unfair as they cannot force developers to implement consents. But this is the current situation.</i></p> <p>An attendee asked whether it was still proposed to develop the allotments site. Alex C. advised that he thought it still was.</p> <p>There was a question of why dwellings were not built as soon as planning permission was obtained. MW said owners could be forced to implement consents, but, clearly, there was every financial incentive not to hold valuable land, once building was possible.</p> <p>The recent MV decision to serve Article 4 Directives on a number of office areas/buildings (thereby preventing them being converted to residential without obtaining planning consent) was discussed. MW commented that the "Prior Approval" legislation had its pros and cons. On the plus side, many of the buildings are old and ripe for renewal and thus provide many new housing units, without building on new sites. On the minus side their development does lead to a</p>	<p>Greenbelt worries</p> <p>Are consents counted as completed targets?</p>

	<p>loss of commercial space.</p> <p>There was a question from the floor as to whether all the new housing would be matched by new community facilities. Tim Hall commented that the District is ok for schools, with actually a surplus of school places, but doctors' surgeries are the critical service, and it will be interesting to see what happens with the Molebridge Practice on Kingston Road.</p> <p>Another question from the floor asked why all these new houses were necessary. Tim Hall answered that housing requirements were not based on push from government, They are based on estimates of population growth made by districts themselves. He said some of our neighbouring districts are in much worse shape: Epsom &amp; Ewell have a requirement of 15000 in the next 15 years.</p> <p>Dee Lamb asked about affordable housing in Leatherhead. She referred to 9 flats built on Church Street, priced at £300k, and questioned who could afford these prices ? MW responded that there were plenty of people who could afford these prices, but clearly there were some who could not and that is why developers were required to provide affordable housing, why there were housing associations and why the government has brought in "Help to buy" financial assistance schemes. MW also commented that the more houses that are built. the less will be the shortage and the less will be house price growth.</p>	
(e)	<p><b>Transform Leatherhead</b> Dates of the next CRG and Public meetings were announced. The Community Reference Group's pre-meeting will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, and the Public Meeting will take place in the Leatherhead Theatre the following Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May. As a new development, the TL team will answer questions submitted in advance – by the 10<sup>th</sup> of May - to <a href="mailto:transformleatherhead@molevalley.gov.uk">transformleatherhead@molevalley.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Swan Centre - no real news up-date ( due to imminent elections) but it is believed that work will start as previously advised in June. It is thought that the toilets will not now be relocated to provide a new shop unit, but they will be refurbished .</p> <p>Bull Hill - planning as to the form of development is awaiting the traffic survey results (which are thought to now be in hand)</p> <p>High Street Works-no further information</p> <p>Flood Action Group, as CA reported.</p> <p>Sustainable Transport – the Randalls Road cycle path – no news.</p> <p>Kingston House Gardens-MW has sought the reaction of Clarion to the comments the LRA made re their latest scheme.He has had no response. The Park Rise residents also reported that they have heard nothing. NB-Subsequently it transpired that Clarion had responded in detail in March but their letter had not been received by the LRA. The letter says that Clarion have made some amendments to the scheme to answer the LRAs points where this has been practical.</p>	<p>Prior questions will be accepted at Transform Leatherhead Meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May</p>
6	<p><b>Marketing – Newsletter CA</b>, who is the editor of the Newsletter asked who had not received their Newsletter copy, and was pleased that all save one had received copies.</p>	
7	<p><b>RACE NIGHT – CA</b> explained that the fundraiser is needed to pay for the LRAs donation to the Actors Benevolent Fund, which was a condition of the British Star Stones being used in front of the Theatre. In addition a donation is being made to the Leatherhead Parish Church in respect of their improvement works.</p> <p>The RACE NIGHT is taking place on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, from 7pm to circa 10pm at the Parish Church Hall. Entry £10 including lasagne dinner.</p>	

	<p><b>SI then explained that the evening will comprise the races, games, a raffle and dinner.</b> Prizes have been donated by local businesses and some have sponsored the evening</p> <p>With so many local businesses supporting this event, it is hoped that many LRA members will decide to attend. Transport can be arranged for those needing it. Tickets available at Barton's Book Store, or from Cheryl Allen (37 00 91), or Susan Leveritt (07793 283 007).</p> <p>Further explanations on how a Race Night is run can be found under "Publicity and Membership," in "Reports" on the same website page as these Minutes.</p>	Volunteers to help with the barrows would be appreciated
8	<p><b>SES WATER Application</b> Roy Allen reported on recent activity as regards the campaign of opposition to the SES plans to build two large industrial buildings on their site on Hawks hill – one as a dosing plant, and one for the storage of chemicals: chlorine and ammonia.</p> <p>Objections are centred on the danger of the chemicals being stored on a steep hill just above the River Mole; and as to the desirability of two more unsightly white roofs being added to the existing buildings. His presentation tonight outlined some new facts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Roy, Cheryl and some other objectors had met with the planning officer John Amos at their house, so that he could see the existing white roofs against the surrounding greenery. Mr Amos expressed the somewhat unexpected view that the appearance of the buildings was not a planning issue.</li> <li>2)</li> <li>3) There was a Chlorine Emergency on 2 Feb 2017. The plant was closed for 36 hours. 2 fire trucks attended. The plan is to increase the volume of these chemicals fourfold.</li> <li>4) A visit was made to the SES water works at Woodmansterne as it is similar in size to the SES Elmer Works. The visit confirmed that these works are unsightly and not appropriate for a site in the Green Belt.</li> </ol>	
9	<p><b>AOB – Dates to note:</b> RACE NIGHT 27 April; Transform Leatherhead Public meeting 24 May; Prudential Bike Race 29 July. No LRA meeting in May.</p> <p>CA has been contacted by a governor at Woodlands School, Ashted. They are appealing for a school governor.</p>	Candidates for school governor?
10	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – AGM with MVDC CEO Karen Brimacombe as guest speaker.</p>	