

Monday, 4th February 2019

Good Evening and Welcome to everyone.

Can you all hear me?

This evening's meeting is a bit like a patchwork with quite a few interested local residents joining the LRA board to keep you up to date with what is going on in what may appear to be a sleepy little North Downs town.

I will start with asking for ideas to proceed with an application to Mole Valley to furnish funds to improve Leatherhead in a modest way. These funds come from the payments developers are obliged to pay to the Council in order to create the infrastructure that will be needed when extra people come to live here. No, we are not going to be expected to provide schools or hospitals. Also the sums on offer would not cover that type of work. But paths, pavements, trees and even some heavy duty cleaning all improve the environment.

The money is called CIL or Community Infrastructure Levy and was preceded by Section 106 money and PIC money. (Planning Infrastructure Contributions). Bookham and Ashted have planted trees with some of their funds. One of our members wondered if some trees could be planted on the boundary of the P.O. depot so that the residents of Holly Court would have something more pleasant than vans to look at. I wondered if the bollards in some parts of the town, notably between Poplar Road and Highlands Road and those around the roundabout called The Circus opposite the Plough could all be painted afresh. At the moment all you can see is their anti-rust coat. Another idea I had is to get all the chewing gum removed from the High Street. For some reason, Church Street is mercifully free of this plague. In fact, some of this money has already been earmarked to tidy up the Waterless Freature.

Wait for ideas or contact me later. The only difficulty is that the money goes out to whoever asks for it first and I think Bookham and Ashted are already thinking of things.

The other subject I wanted to bring to your attention is that of the Community Housing partnership. This is a scheme whereby a small group of able and willing people get together to build their own houses. The main problem round here, as you can guess, is that the land itself is often worth more than the cost of the house. Anyway, there is a conference on this subject on Monday, 25th February between 10.30 and 12.30 in the Ranmore suite on the Denbies Wine Estate. I shall be going and if anyone would like to come to, please do let me know.