



DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Held on Monday 1st April at 7.30 pm at the
Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead**

Present: Caroline Brown* (CB); Chairman; Hubert Carr* (HC) Vice Chairman; Paula Sabine (PS); Susan Leveritt (SL) Acting Minuting Secretary; Cheryl Allen* (CA); Louise Herrity* (LH); Martyn Williams* (MW); Ray Brown; Bridget Carr; Roy Allen; Hilary Porter; Ian Seifert; Irene Seifert; Ann Cardew; Nigel Sabine; Pam & John Wilson; Fred Meynon; Celia Thornhill; Navin Mehta; Simon Moss; Paul Purcell; Maureen Conrad; Pat Harris, Tim Jones, David Wells; Rosemary Henderson; Geoff Paterson; Frank Lynes; Margaret Hubbard; Jenny & Steve Day; Tony Russell; Andi & Rory Ryan, Jane Pratt; Lesley Pearce; Terry Richards; Chris & Joan Pelley; Keith & Eileen Walton; Bill & Gill Whitman; Margaret Sims; A Humber; Percy Hawkins; Geoffrey West; Julia Jarrett; Robin Waters; Frank Haslam; Alex Cooper (Cudlip).

* denotes Director

In Attendance: Cllr Tim Hall; Guest Speaker Lucy Quinnell; Hilary Livesay; R Turner; S Turner
Total Attending : 57

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Joe Crome; Cllr Emma Norman; Cllr Rosemary Dickson; Fran Smith; Evelyn Wightman; Sheila Baddeley
2. **The Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th June 2018 were approved with no amendments. Susan Leveritt proposed acceptance Rory Ryan seconded the proposal
3. **Matters Arising** (none)
4. **Chairman's Report** (full report online) Caroline Brown summarised some of the activities of the LRA during 2018 and some of the challenges that lay ahead.
5. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2018** accepted without correction (Available on line)
Acceptance proposed by Bill Whitman and seconded by Navin Metha
6. **Election of Directors:** Chairman Caroline Brown; Vice-Chairman Hubert Carr
Caroline Brown re-elected as Chairman with Ian Seifert proposing and Bridget Carr seconding. Hubert Carr re-elected with Paula Sabine proposing and Lesley Pearce seconding.
7. **Other Reports**-Martyn Williams reported on the work of Arcadis a company that has been employed by Transform Leatherhead to evaluate ways to improve the Town Centre. After some initial findings (including video link to the High Street to record pedestrian and vehicle use) Arcadis met with a Focus Group predominantly made up of representatives of the

businesses in the Town Centre. These representatives, working in small groups, had the opportunity to have their say about what is needed. Some of the ideas included grants for improving the shop fronts and the upper storeys to shops, free parking in late afternoon, free parking in Swan Centre on upper floors, and an improved bus service. The follow-up meeting will be in June.

8. **AOB**-There was an appeal for help with the LRA newsletter, and an announcement about the up coming Litter Pick on Saturday the 13th, and two announcements by Hilary Porter concerning up coming events at the Letherhead Institute: 1) the LRA is to work with the LCA on display for the Leatherhead Heritage Open Days and 2) a Family Health Day on November 2. Maps and photos were requested showing past work by the LRA in improving the Town.
9. **Guest Speaker – Ms Lucy Quinnell, Chairman of the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society.** With the up coming new MV Local Plan to be presented this summer, Lucy was asked to give a presentation about the Green Belt, greenfield sites, and brown field sites. With a lifetime spent in Leatherhead as a keen environmentalist and a crusader to save Teazle Wood, she was in a unique position to know the facts about our area. However, leaving nothing to chance, Lucy brought Hilary Livesay along with her specialist knowledge of the Green Belt.

Lucy used the opportunity to highlight some of her concerns about Leatherhead which included fly tipping, littered motorways and roundabouts at the entrances to Leatherhead, past vandalism in Teazle Wood, illegal bonfires, and the filthy state of some of our street and motorway signage.

In light of the fact that we will be asked to comment on the new Local Plan this summer, Lucy presented the 5 criteria that originally helped to designate the land as Green Belt land.

- _to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

It is hoped that Leatherhead residents will use these criteria to judge whether the land is still fulfilling its purpose.

10. Next Open Meeting – Monday, 13th May 2019

11. The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.