



**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
Held on Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.30 pm at the  
Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead**

**Present:** Caroline Brown\*, Chairman; Hubert Carr\*, Vice Chairman; Fran Smith\*, Louise Herrity\*; Martyn Williams\*; Susan Leveritt, Hilary Porter, Tim Jones, Minuting Secretary; Ian Seifert, Irene Seifert, Percy Hawkins, Tony Russell, Pauline Russell, Ray Brown, Maureen Conrad, Terry Richards, William Whitman, Gillian Whitman, Lesley Pearce, John Long, Bridget Carr, Elaine Arnold, Geoff Patterson, Ann Clark, Jenny Christie, Chris Evans, Judy Harris, Julia Jarrett, Simon Moss, Paul Purcell, Karen Purcell, Peter Magor, Jenny Macfarlane, Rachel Brown, Ethan Parsons, Steven Dearlove, Sara Kane, Steve Stuart, Chris Goddard, Marie Goddard, Eve Sutch, Navin Mehta, Margaret Ludford,

\*Denotes Director

**In Attendance:** Cllr Tim Hall, Cllr Rosemary Dickson (Total Attending 45)

**AGENDA**

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Keira Vyvyan-Robinson, Cllr Emma Norman, Paula Sabine, Cheryl Allen\*.

**2. Introductions of Committee members and Councillors**

**3. Matters Arising from the November 2019 LRA meeting:** (report online at <http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/mdocs-posts/minutes-of-open-meeting-4th-november-2019-3/> )

None

**4. Chairman's Report:** (report online at <http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/mdocs-posts/chairmans-report-for-6-january-2020/> )

The Chairman's presentation covered the following items:

i] At the Mole Valley Council committee meeting scheduled for 22nd January, the Local Committee will have on their agenda:

- a] Review of parking, not just in Leatherhead but all of Mole Valley
- b] The Highways forward programme
- c] Leatherhead High Street, and
- d] Rights of way in Green Lane, Ashted

Items about Leatherhead will take up more than half the time of the meeting.

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ii] Some items of good news are that:

- a] The Leatherhead Recycling Centre at Randalls Road will once again be open on Fridays
  - b] All Countryside Estate car parks will have their parking charges removed, and will be free to park in, and
  - c] No Libraries will be closed, but some will be relocated
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iii] Although Surrey has good coverage for fast broadband, defined as at least 24 Mbps, at 98 coverage, Mole Valley is slightly lower at 96.9%. "Gigabit" vouchers are available for businesses and community groups to cover some of the cost for uprating broadband, but they will cover only a part of the cost.

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iv] Leatherhead High Street's parking will be reviewed at a meeting of the Local Committee on 22nd January, when the committee will be presented with three suggested changes to the current situation. In order of severity, these are

- a] Extending the current no-parking times of 10 am – 4.30 pm Monday – Saturday to also include 10 am – 4.30 pm on Sundays
- b] Allowing only unloading and loading in designated bays 4.30 pm – 10 am Monday – Sunday
- c] No parking at any time in the High Street

The LRA has been dismayed by these proposals, and led by Susan Leveritt has been attempting to get a small amount of free parking 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Monday – Saturday. Three councillors think this small change is apparently impossible, and a fourth, Rosemary Dickson, supports our proposals.

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v] While on the subject of High Streets and shopping, next month's speaker will be a Leatherhead resident who has opened a successful retail business in Carnaby Street, and who is still there. The layout in Alice Mayor's shop was voted the third best in London by Time Out magazine. (The winner was Liberty's!)

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vi] Jason Hughes of Mole Valley Highways has said that the potholes in the road leading to the Leatherhead recycling centre will be filled in, and the road will be added to the list to be regularly monitored.

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vii] Two of our members, Caroline Cardew-Smith and Alan Thornhill, have been awarded the Benger Shield by the Leatherhead and Countryside District Protection Society for their work controlling Himalayan Balsam along the river.

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viii] Not such good news has been received from the Supreme Court, which decided that Leach Grove's status as a Village Green was incompatible with its ownership by the NHS, and which has revoked its Village Green status.

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ix] The next Litter Pick will be on Saturday 28th March 2020

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x] Mole Valley Local Plan

The Mole Valley Local Plan is so important, because it will define the direction of building and development in Mole Valley for the next 15 years, up to 2033.

The next few weeks will be a very busy time regarding the plan, which the council are calling "Future Mole Valley", and the sequence of events will be:

- a] 14th January – Extraordinary meeting of MV council.
- b] 28th January – Meeting of the MV council
- c] If approved on 28th January, there will be a consultation period Monday 3rd February – Monday 16th March, a period of only 6 weeks, to make comments. The council will be attending several venues to explain the plan and ask for comments.

The council's exhibition will be in North Leatherhead on Monday 17th February, and at the Letherhead Institute on Monday 24th February and again on Saturday 7th March. The full list of MV's exhibiton tour dates can be found at <http://futuremolevalley.org/january-2020-update/>

Several things have happened,

- a] the presentation of the draft Mole Valley Local Plan to the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting of MV on 14th January can be found on pages 1-12 here [http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/6/i/Item\\_3\\_-\\_Future\\_Mole\\_Valley\\_consultation\\_on\\_draft\\_Local\\_Plan\\_.pdf](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/6/i/Item_3_-_Future_Mole_Valley_consultation_on_draft_Local_Plan_.pdf)
- b] The publishing of the draft Mole Valley Local Plan, which can be found online, from page 13 onwards, at the same website, [http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/6/i/Item\\_3\\_-\\_Future\\_Mole\\_Valley\\_consultation\\_on\\_draft\\_Local\\_Plan\\_.pdf](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/6/i/Item_3_-_Future_Mole_Valley_consultation_on_draft_Local_Plan_.pdf)
- c] Mole Valley Council have created a special website about the local plan, and it is at <http://futuremolevalley.org>

d] It is also possible to sign up to received updates from Mole Valley about the Local Plan, at <https://futuremolevalley.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=29cfa943431d306b33ef76755&id=eefacbe922>

## **5. Planning Report – Fran Smith (report online at <http://www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/mdocs-posts/planning-report-for-6-jan-2020/>)**

The main comments were about:

i] A public enquiry about the gypsy site at River Lane, and converting its status from temporary to permanent will start on 14th January at Pippbrook, and is expected to last 3 days

ii] A modified application for 7 tavbes and chairs on the pavement outside Prezzo has been approved.

lii] There has been no application made for the ex-Martins shop because internal work does not need permission.

A member asked when the new Leatherhead Post Office will open, and where. Fran replied that she assumed that it would be in one half of the ex-Martins store, which continues to display signs saying the new Post Office would be opening in “November 2019”. Update: The post office has indeed opened in the second half of January, after this LRA meeting.

## **6. Leatherhead High Street Parking**

Susan Leveritt spoke passionately and gave a short presentation about the parking on Leatherhead High Street, and why the LRA feels that the proposals by Transform Leatherhead to completely prohibit parking on Leatherhead High Street would be so bad for the town, and in particular drive away shoppers who visited the town by car. Shoppers have lots of towns they can shop in, and many are attracted to those towns where they can park for free.

A member expressed the opposing view, that without cars, the high street would be greener and leafier, with better air quality, and would be easier for disabled and blind people to visit.

However, without shoppers, the town’s shops will close, and there will be no reason to visit the town, irrespective of whether the town is green or whether the parking is free or not.

## **7. AOB**

Following the success in 2019, Race Night will again be taking place this year, and is scheduled for Friday 24th April, in the Parish Church Hall.

**8 . Date of Next Meeting** Monday 3rd February 2020 7.30 pm

The formal meeting ended at 8.30 pm, after which members gathered for an informal discussion over food.