

LRA Bulletin for the end of February 2022

Dear Member,

February has not seen quite the amount of activity that we experienced in January, but nonetheless it has not been without some drama.

Concerning the Local Plan: Saturday 5th saw the second of two meetings between Mole Valley District Council, (MVDC), and the people of Leatherhead in the Swan Centre. The aim was to make sure residents understood what was contained in the Local Plan as regards their Town, and to realize that at this stage no further changes could be accommodated unless the Inspector approves them. Plenty of conversations took place, so it seems the meetings were successful.

Monday 7th was the date for the visit of Jacqueline Totterdell, General Chief Executive Officer of St. Georges, St. Helier and Epsom Hospital Trusts. With her came James Blythe, the Managing Director of Epsom and St. Helier. Ms. Totterdell explained that the three hospitals remained as two separate Trusts, but that they have agreed to work together to share and maximise the use of their respective resources. I have a short recording of what was shown (i.e. slides etc.) and so, so if you would like me to send it to you, please ask.

On Friday, 11th the Dorking "Climate Emergency Group" organised a somewhat distressing lecture and discussion on the pollution of the River Mole by authorised and unauthorised discharges of raw sewage into the River by the Dorking Treatment Works. The meeting was looking for people who could help them monitor these discharges and luckily there were some with the requisite time and experience to do this! If you, too, feel strongly about this subject, contact the Surrey Based Climate Action Group <dorking-climate-emergency.net)

Those who used to subscribe to the Garden Waste Collection service, will be pleased to know that it has been resumed on a monthly basis. As soon as possible, it will be returned to the fortnightly arrangement pertaining to before the pandemic.

And now an event to soothe the nerves, especially after the terrible storm Eunice at the end of February. "Moodswing", our local jazz music ensemble, is putting on an exciting mixture of The American Song Book, a few Latin and some Gypsy Jazz in the Leatherhead Theatre on 9th March in the Mezzanine Bar at 20.00hr.

In a determined effort to get (and stay!) up to date, Mole Valley District Council is launching its new Youth Forum. Replacing the previous incarnation which MVDC administered for many years, (MV Youth Voice), the newly-established 'Mole Valley Youth Forum' will be predominantly based online and run through Instagram and Facebook pages. It is hoped that this Forum will not only better engage with young people aged 8 to 18, but also provide an avenue for them to get involved in local democracy decision-making. While the social media channels are not available to anyone under 13, MVDC will be engaging with this younger age group through alternative avenues, via schools, student councils and youth groups in the district.

New Parking Permit scheme: The new scheme is being introduced to create a simpler , more transparent and equitable charging structure for parking in Council long-stay car parks It should also reduce costs for the majority of residents and businesses .Four grades of permit will be available-

Gold permits: for all residents and businesses - £1075 per annum

Silver permits: for Mole Valley residents and small businesses - £675 per annum

Bronze permits: for off-peak customers and low paid workers - £175 per annum

Concessionary permits: for school and nursery drop-off and collection - £50 for 5 years

All permits can be purchased quarterly, monthly, or pro-rata (for certain days of the week) and it will be quick and easy to apply. The permits will be available from the end of March 2022 at molevalley.gov.uk/permits

Pop-up-Shops: Finally, in order to help some future shop owners take the plunge, there will be a series of Pop-up-Shops in the Swan Centre in the former “Next” premises. For further details and to enquire about selling opportunities please [visit the Pop Up Shops Agents website](http://www.thepopupshopagents.co.uk) or email the team on hello@thepopupshopagents.co.uk.

The next LRA meeting is on April 4th, when Graham Hanson will talk about “Giving Customers a voice on Water Company Performance.” Until he retired a few months ago, Graham was the Chairman of the “Customer Scrutiny Panel at S.E.S. Water.” (There is no March LRA meeting)

With very best wishes to everyone,

Caroline (Brown), Chairman