

Chairman's Address for June 6th meeting-

Good evening to you all and welcome to this evening's meeting .

Tonight is more or less devoted to the subject of our draft Local Plan, but, before we start on that, I would just like to mention a couple of other subjects- (Any plans for future meetings)

As you will know from the end of May bulletin, I and some noble volunteer helpers manned one of the Swan Centre barrows last Thursday and Friday. We were selling donated items to raise money for Ukraine. I am pleased to report that we had an excellent two days, selling most of what we had to offer and raising a total of £140. I would like to thank all of you who bought items, and particularly I would like to thank Elaine Arnold, Katherine Grigson, Julia Jarrett, Paula Sabine, Diana Gale and Susi for their help in manning the barrow.

It wasn't all unmitigated hard bargaining! On the first day there were crowns for children to decorate, a band and some lively dancing done by girls dressed in red, white and blue; on the second day, there was a very efficient face painter and a queue of future subjects plus their Mums and Dads. Naturally, the queues each day provided us with some nice, static subjects to be enticed to our stall!

You will have noticed, as you came in, a varied collection of items on the table down there. If you could use any of them, please do put in a small donation and take the article away. We were charging £1, £2 or £3 in the Swan Centre.

There will not be a meeting in July, but I will try to arrange one for August. If anyone has a subject they would like discussed, do please, let me know and I will do my best to find someone to talk about it.

And now for the main subject of the evening, the draft Local plan.

As you may know the draft plan prepared by our council and the representations made during the consultation last year have all been forwarded to the planning inspector, who has been asked by government to assess whether the draft meets the statutory requirements.

Part of that process will involve Hearings at which those who made representations will be allowed to speak directly to the Inspector about them. I am pleased to say that I have been granted one of those slots at a Hearing that will deal specifically with Leatherhead. This will be in the morning on 12th October. I do not yet know where.

Before I hand over to Matyn Williams, I must apologise for the lack of tea and biscuits. Tony and Pauline Russell used to do this welcome job, but Tony is now seriously ill and, of course, Pauline stays at home with him. Another item is to remind you all that I am still looking for a replacement Chairman plus some friends to build up a new committee here.

Martyn Williams will now take over this part of the meeting.