



Bulletin for the end of June, but published on 4th July 2022.

Dear Member,

Well, I have to say that it's nice to be back in sunny England! I say this because my husband and I have been away for the last couple of weeks in the USA, visiting our daughter. Whilst we were obviously delighted to see her and her family, for most of our stay in the area it was one of the coldest Junes for many years and we were reduced to wearing our emergency clothing, which I became heartily sick of!

Turning back now to Mole Valley, the Hearings being conducted by the Planning Inspector into the Draft Local Plan are now under way, with Stage 1 having been conducted and finished during June. Stage 2 happens in the last week of September and Stage 3 in two weeks during October. The Inspector has confirmed that the LRA can present their views on the proposed residential development sites for Leatherhead at one of the Stage 3 Hearings.

Progress has also been made with the development of Claire/James house, on the River-front. The Council has confirmed ME Developments as its development partner for the project, which will comprise 35 flats (some affordable) and a ground floor café and amenity space. ME has recently submitted a "reserved matters application" in respect of issues not settled within the original planning application /consent process.

KFC has now been officially asked to be more considerate in their use of the free parking bays outside their new restaurant in Church Street, as both customers and other businesses nearby have been dismayed at their heavy use by the delivery scooters serving KFC.

LRA member, Hilary Porter, informs me that help is available to those who find themselves somewhat cut off from society by their inability to make full use of mobile phones and computers. It seems that there is some personal teaching available free of charge. Contact Hilary for more information at <hm.porter@ntlworld.com>

Hilary also reports that the new transport service in lieu of the bus route we all wanted going along Randall's Road, is now up and running on a daily request service. Info from Mole Valley Life. If you cannot find a leaflet, look in the Education Hub at the bottom of the High Street at the lower entrance to the Swan Centre. It also

goes to other locations more widely spread in Surrey. It is wheelchair friendly, no fixed routes and book in advance. For more information go to [Mole Valley connect: on demand bus service - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://surreycc.gov.uk)

I have been asked to publicise the following, hoping that some of us would feel moved to help:

Mole Valley residents have opened their hearts and their homes and taken in over 168 Ukrainian refugees so far. If you would like to meet these resilient and inspiring people, and maybe offer them a day outing or some work around your house or garden, or if you would like to volunteer at the English language school at St John's from 25th July, do come to the **PUB EVENING** or **WALK/PICNIC** organised by "Unite with Kindness" – an offshoot of NE Surrey for Europe (see www.nes4eu.co.uk Events)

The Ukraine Pub Evening is on Friday 8th July at the Stepping Stones in Westhumble RH5 6BS from 18.30 to about 21.30 .Please call the pub on 01306 889932 to book a meal.

The Walk/Picnic is on Sunday 17th July .Meet at Denbies RH5 6AA at 13.00 with BYO picnic for the walk up to Ranmore viewpoint for 14.30 picnic.If you prefer, go straight to **Ranmore Common East car park "National Trust Denbies Hillside"**, Ranmore Common Road, near Dorking, RH5 6SR .See www.nes4eu.co.uk in case of rain postponement to 24th July

A small, sad item of information: I have heard from the Editor of the Ashtead and Leatherhead Local magazine that this interesting and useful little source of information has now closed. Apparently the cost of their basic materials has just got too high.

On a more positive note , Mole Valley has been awarded approx. £1m from the Government's "UK Shared Prosperity Fund " to be spent over the next 3 years. Our Council will be managing the fund, but are liaising with District stakeholders, such as the LRA, as to suggestions for beneficiaries and other matters of detail.

In connection with some S.C.C. and M.V. meetings I get asked to, could I have your suggestions as to what small improvements you would like to see in Leatherhead? For instance, I would like our planters to look more permanent, i.e. in stone or wood. Or are there any verges which to your eyes look unloved and could do with planting and maintenance ? Suggestions please to <chairman@leatherheadresidents.org.uk>

Lastly, I confirm that there will be no LRA meeting in July nor in August but there will be one on 5th September.

With very best wishes for a smooth, untroubled Summer,

Caroline (Brown) Chairman.

