



## Bulletin for the end of July, 2022

Dear Members,

First of all, I must thank all those members who took the time to write to me with their ideas for improvements to Leatherhead. I received 11 suggestions and am now discussing with Cllr Tim Hall the possibility of their materializing,

The ideas were as follows:

1. Tidying up, removal of graffiti and general upgrading of the riverside path down to Common Meadow and beyond.
2. Jet washing the High street, pruning the lime trees outside the theatre and rationalising the number of litter bins.
3. Upgrading the appearance of all the roundabouts in Leatherhead – about 8 or more!
4. In particular , tidying The Plough Roundabout as the author fears a fire from the very long, dry grass.
5. Improve the corner of the gyratory system opposite Lidl. It is sharp and a bad crash earlier this month suggests worse could come.
6. The footpath from Copthorne Road via By-pass Road to two schools is in urgent need of a tidy up.
7. Make roundabouts and kerbsides more like those in Rotherham where there has been a big effort to sow wild flowers (photos supplied ) Apparently, after the initial efforts to get it all going, it is now saving the local council money.
8. Limit the number of billboards in the High Street, as they are restricting pedestrian movement . The planters need to be of better quality. The black helmets, clothing and motorbikes of the KFC delivery drivers are frightening for some. More litter bins needed.
9. Limit the exhibiting of goods outside shops , something which is not allowed in Esher, Reigate and Cobham.
10. One person has made an offer of a generous contribution towards the repair of the clock which over hangs the High Street.

11. The steps in the gardens of the Mansion House are too uneven for one resident and so a handrail is suggested.

Some selection will have to be made and no doubt the availability or not of money will also have an effect. There are several sources of money in the shape of "Grants" or special "Funds" and these are what I shall be discussing with Councillor Hall. But, maybe, what we don't achieve now may arrive in a year or two?

And now for some other bits of news:

The Planning Application by Levanter Developments for an "Extra Care Community" at The United Reform Church on Epsom Road has now been passed but with a very long list of Conditions, aimed (among other things) at protecting the current amenities of the neighbours regarding their privacy.

Carnah Publications is taking over the publication of Ashted and Leatherhead Local but will not have as many editions, perhaps about six per year.

The Local Plan is creeping through its various stages. The Inspector has now completed Stage one but is unwilling to continue to Stage 2 until she is satisfied that the impact of all the proposed new developments on the M25, in particular junction 9a, have been adequately catered for. For this reason, Stage Two has been put back to the end of September and Stage Three (where the proposals for Leatherhead in particular will be considered) is now put back to the end of October.

I am still hoping that some brave soul will step forward and offer to become the Chairman of the L.R.A. However, I may simply reduce the number of meetings as I did this summer, but try to keep everyone up to date with the Bulletin and continue with the Litter Picks which are really essential.

Just as I was about to draw a line under this latest Bulletin, I received a most unexpected piece of good news. It came from Traffic Orders Officer A. Kazantzis, of the Surrey Traffic Management and Parking Team. It was framed in very heavy, technical language but amounted to returning to the 4.30pm parking permission and this lasting until 10.00am the following day, when all parked vehicles should leave! I do not know when this order will be implemented. At the moment they are just asking for representations either way.\* It does, of course, only refer to Church Street (from the bollards) and High Street.

Our next meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> September when I hope I shall be able to report further on the ideas for improvements to Leatherhead!

With best wishes,

Caroline Brown (Chairman).

\*Letters to Ms L. Monie, Hazel House, Merrow Lane, Merrow, Guildford, GU4 7BQ

Emails to [highways@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:highways@surreycc.gov.uk) by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Letters or emails need the ref: LSEN/21684/MV/AK

