



Leatherhead
Residents
Association

A Bulletin for the end of April 2023

Dear Members,

I hope you have all enjoyed a pleasant Easter break and that the warmer weather did not take you completely by surprise!

Although the "Purdah" period prior to the up-coming local elections has prevented my receiving as many news items from our Council as usual, I do seem to have been sent lots of smaller pieces of information which I think you will find interesting.

As I am sure you all know, our Council receives monies both from Developers (CIL money) and from the Government to enable the provision of projects of use and/or recreation for local communities. We have two smallish projects heading our way: one for a mural under Waterway Bridge and one for an upgrade of the planters in the High Street. The latter was promised to be in place by the time of the Coronation, although at the minute it rather looks as if we are, yet again, having to wait.

There is to be a traditional, local carnival in the High Street from 2pm until 9pm after the **Coronation** on 6th May. There will be dancing, music and other small side shows plus food and drink. The LRA has assisted with the organising of this. Perhaps the biggest event will be the Coronation Dog Show in Park Gardens in front of the Church which is planned to last from 12pm to 4 pm. There is an amazing number of categories for the dogs with amusing titles, e.g. "Scrumptiously Scruffy," "Most like owner," and "Best Treat Catcher!" Book your dog in advance (LPCdogshow@gmail.com) for £2 but on the day itself it is £4. Cream Teas, Pimms & Prosecco plus a raffle are just a few of the other items of interest.

We held another successful **Litter Pick** on Sunday, 23rd April. I am very grateful to all those members who gave of their time and energy to help keep our Town looking neat and tidy. Some of them are particularly devoted to the cause and do this job several times a year. MV also contributes a small amount to our coffers for each bag collected which is very welcome.

As I am sure you all know, the new **Local Plan** (which includes projects from Transform Leatherhead) is still in limbo at the request of our Council, as they wait to hear the detail as to changes to Government Planning Policy, announced in outline at the end of last year. The most important of these changes is the total number of dwellings required to be built in the

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District. Any reduction in the total could benefit Leatherhead, which currently accommodates a disproportionate share of the total.

It has been suggested to me that photos of people using the Red House Grounds, either for picnics or for casual football or tennis or even a children's party would help the Authorities to believe that this central area park is used and valued by the residents of Leatherhead. It could make the area rather harder to develop in the way currently proposed.

Art Exhibition:

Two residents would like everyone to know about work they have been doing:

Carol Stoves from the Leatherhead Methodist Church is putting on (and contributing to) an art display:

Leatherhead Art Club's Spring Exhibition at Denbies Wine Estate starts on Monday, 22nd May and continues until Sunday, 28th May. A wonderful display of original art showcasing the talents of this enthusiastic group of local artists and including a wide variety of styles and subject matter ranging from local landscapes to vibrant abstracts. All artwork will be for sale at affordable prices.

www.leatherheadartclub.com

A Banking Hub:

LRA member, Hilary Porter has been collecting signatures from people who really need a Banking Hub in our town to replace the rapidly disappearing bank branches. Many people are unable to travel to outlying towns to discuss their banking needs or do not have access to the internet. Many problems are personal and do not lend themselves to be discussed with casual friends or acquaintances. Hilary has, so far, collected around 150 signatures so that both the banks and the Council Officers can see that this is not a problem limited to a small minority. If YOU get the opportunity, please do push this case forward. There is a petition to be signed situated in the Institute, near the mail boxes.

Membership renewals

If you normally receive your bulletin by email, but you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2023, you will be receiving a hard-copy bulletin with a membership renewal form. We would be grateful if you could renew your membership, and then you will continue receiving your bulletins by email.

That's all for this Bulletin. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting, which is on Monday 22nd May, at the usual venue and at the usual time. Richard Keel, our Town Centre Manager, has kindly agreed to give us a talk about his current responsibilities and, as far as he can, give us some idea of what may be the situation in a few years' time.

Caroline Brown (Chairman)

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