



Leatherhead
Residents
Association

A Bulletin for the end of July 2023

Dear Members,

A number of important events have happened this month:

On the town planning front, there has been an Appeal against an Enforcement Notice issued by our Council in respect of the use of a motocross track on land situated between Woodlands Road and the River Mole. The LRA has supported local residents with their objections to the Appeal, given the noise disturbance that the track causes them.

There has also been an Appeal against non-determination of a planning application for the development of "extra-care" and standard housing on a substantial area of Green Belt land on the Headley Road (east section) close to its junction with the A243/By-pass. Again the LRA has supported local residents with their objections regarding both the traffic this would generate at a very difficult junction and the loss of a very substantial part of the Green Belt on this side of our Town.

The District Council's Cabinet has just agreed the Spring round of funding - based on recommendations by Council Members assigned to the North and South Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Working Groups – the following funding awarded to successful bidders:

- Bump Track, Lower Road Recreational Ground in Bookham: £100,000 (subject to conditions)
- Dorking Cricket Club practice nets: £12,000
- Leatherhead Footpath between Trinity School and the Leatherhead Youth Project: £22,000 (subject to conditions) This is/was the Be Free Café, but in fact the path will run from the Kingston Road up.
- Planters for the Plough Roundabout, Leatherhead: £11,000 (subject to conditions)

The acceptance of our suggestions for the Plough Roundabout is very good news. It is on a much used entry point into Leatherhead and needs to show that we care about our environment. There are people offering to maintain the planting and even a kind Sponsor for the project, but Surrey Highways are very concerned as to how safe access to the Roundabout for this work can be provided.

However, there is another plan which should please everyone, particularly those aged 0-16, and that is the Free Activities on offer between 24 July and 1 September in Leatherhead and Dorking. There is modern music, "Animazing" (= contacts with different sorts of animals) and golf, to name but a few. To get the whole list and to register, visit <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/Summer-Holiday-Activities>

I am sure most of you will have heard of the plan by most of the rail companies to close their ticket

Email via www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/contact

Registered Office : Fewston, St. Nicholas Hill, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 8Ne

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offices. Although no final date is given, a very full description is given on Southern.Consultation@Londontravelwatch.org.uk It would seem that disabled people are likely to be the hardest hit, although many of us occasional travelers would miss the traditional ticket office where both tickets and advice can be obtained. The above address gives plenty of places to write to and object.

I have had a number of complaints from members who are very aggrieved about certain parts of our local road network. One person complained about the upkeep of the Bockett's Farm roundabout. It seems that this feature is not being attended to properly: the grass is left to grow far too tall and when it is eventually cut it is left uncollected and is the principal culprit involved in the clogging of nearby drains. Safety is also compromised by the height of the grass obstructing sight-lines for road users.

Another complainant lives with a sick relative very near two schools and cannot rely on getting either in or out of her property at the start and end of the school day because the road is often blocked by the inconsiderate parking of parents' cars. There appears to be a need for additional double yellow lines plus frequent visits by a traffic control officer. I intend to bring these two situations to the attention of MV officers who will subsequently pass them on to the relevant officers at Surrey Highways.

Finally, it has come to my notice (and probably to yours, too) that our Council has agreed a joint venture partnership with Kier Property for the redevelopment of Bull Hill and the Swan Centre, and also with a new developer for the Claire and James House Riverside Site. Together with Surrey County Council they have also drawn up an agreement to work together on a "Future Towns" initiative. The first two partnerships will begin the first phase of public engagement later this year, whereby residents and businesses can have their input into the development proposals.

I have also heard from Rod Shaw who wrote to introduce the work that the District Council has done with a not-for-profit company called AccessAble to produce Access Guides for Dorking and Leatherhead. They give factual information particularly useful for people with a range of disabilities who need to visit town centres. Just type in "AccessAble" into your search engine (eg Google) and move on from there. The Leatherhead Residents' Association Directors have approved the 2022 Accounts of the Company and they are now posted on the Company web-site under "Treasurers Reports." For those without access to a computer a hard copy of this Bulletin and a copy of the Accounts will be hand-delivered. There will be an opportunity for members to discuss the Accounts with the Directors at the forthcoming meeting on Monday August 21st.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 21st August in the usual venue of the Methodist Church in Church Road and at the usual time of 19.30. I am pleased to announce that our speaker will be Mr. Bill King who will talk to us about the extremely rare and old (thought to date to 1660) coat of arms that is housed in St. Mary's Church in Fetcham .

With my best wishes to all of you,
Caroline Brown.