



Leatherhead
Residents
Association

L.R.A. Bulletin for the end of February 2023

Dear Members,

I am pleased to include in this month's Bulletin updates on a number of matters where progress appears to be being made at long last.

The Riverside project: Ideas for improving and using our riverside have been around since the start of Transform but now at last there seems to be a bit of movement in that direction. The first of a series of meetings was called on 19th January and the name topped the list for discussion. Riverside "Park" seemed too urban for the attendees and they felt that "Leatherhead Riverside" or "Leatherhead Nature Reserve" fitted the area better.

Although a proposed bridge from the Leisure Centre side, via one of the islands to the town side, seemed a nice idea, it had several drawbacks regarding the wildlife on the island itself. It was also felt that the park should be rather longer, stretching from (roughly) the cemetery to Thorncroft Bridge and should include Minchin Gardens behind Mansion House.

The whole area has a rich history, including people and places mentioned by Jane Austen and even Turner did a painting of St. Mary and St. Nicholas Church which now hangs in the Tate. Much more could be made of this!

Charging points: Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) is working with EB Charging to install 90 Electric Vehicle Charging Points in 10 of the district's car parks. The project is planned to be delivered by the end of May 2023. In all, Leatherhead is down for 26, Dorking for 32 and Bookham for 10. They are all in current car parks. Station Road is to have 8, Randalls Road to have 10 and the Swan Centre, 8.

Elm Road: there have been, I understand, some misconceptions over the legality of parking in Elm Road between 6pm and 8am. Although the car park there is privately owned, and so not open to the public during the day, there was an agreement when it changed hands a few years ago that, out of office hours, it should remain open to other people. The signs in the car park itself are not clear on this point and need re-phrasing.

The Plough Roundabout : After much effort and many letters/emails from both your Chairman and Cllr. Keira Vyvyan-Robinson, it seems that Surrey County Council is about to agree to some planting in the roundabout in front of the Plough inn. The cost, including insurance and plants, will be covered by CIL with the proprietor of the Plough and a local firm doing the actual planting. This is a tremendous step forward for Leatherhead and I, as Chairman, am grateful to all concerned.

A Mural: Another sign showing what can be done when people are determined, in this case brighten up parts of our town which have looked very neglected, is the news that the suggestion of a painted mural under Waterway Road has been accepted and will receive a CIL grant to pay for it. It will depict aquatic scenes, particularly from the River Mole.

March the Mole: This is a series of family friendly walks due to start in March. They run along our river and call for the restoration of our clean waters.

5th March at 2pm from Leatherhead Station to Dorking, 6 miles, half-way point is Swanworth Farm.

12th March at 2pm from the Stepping Stones to Reigate, 6 miles, half-way point is Brockham.

19th March at 2pm from the Street Café in Charlwood to Sidlow, 5 miles, half-way point is the "Six Bells."

For further information see "Eventbrite" under "March the Mole" or email MarchtheMole@gmail.com

Voting in the coming elections: You have probably heard this from several sources, but if you wish to vote in the next elections (local and national) you will need some method of identification with a photo. UK passports are ideal, as are driving licences.

And now a little snippet of what I hope will turn out to be good news: Karen Brimacombe, (CEO for MV), has had a satisfactory meeting with Zena Curry of Surrey C.C. Highways and the result is that Zena Curry will be talking with one of our Councillors (Keira Vyvyan-Robinson) about our wish for some NEW planters in the High Street. Let's hope that the result is what we want!

I wish you all a happy and warm March!

Caroline (Brown)
Chairman.