



Bulletin for the end of October 2022

Dear Members,

I am exceptionally pleased to be able to report that it now appears that there is money to provide our Town Centre with new, hopefully more attractive and certainly longer lasting planters. There are still the questions of "how many" and "where" but I hope such worries will not take long to resolve. However as the repair of the paving stones/slabs is the responsibility of Surrey C.C. we have to wait until the Highways Dept. there can allocate the money. If (a big "if") they could do it quickly, then there would be no need for cleaning the existing but that seems to be the most likely action in the short term.

And now another piece of news which dropped into my email this morning: Landscape consultants Allen Scott, Landscape Architecture confirmed that they have been appointed by Mole Valley District Council to prepare a design for the new Riverside Park in Leatherhead. Many of you reading this will remember the discussion about such a plan when the future of Claire and James House was being discussed some ten years ago. Meanwhile, if you want to revise your memory of it, look on the Transform Leatherhead website: <https://transformleatherhead.com/riverside-park>.

Another item which has jumped into the news recently is Planning Application no. MO/2022/1619 which proposes building quite a large Retirement Community of up to 125 apartments surrounded by 54 new homes on the south side of the Headley Road. Apart from this piece of land being Green Belt, and it being remote from any of the Town's facilities, the main access to/from Headley Road is via the very difficult junction with the A24/By-pass.

Better news than expected came from Councillor Bridget Kendrick concerning the Review of Mole Valley District Council Services and Finances 2021-22. She reported that because the Council had remained prudent during the previous year and had received significant Government funding, plus receiving a higher number than usual of fee paying Planning Applications and a resurgence of revenue streams from assets such as Dorking Halls and car parking, she was able to report a £60,000 budget surplus rather than the initially forecast £800,000 deficit. Please write to Matt Blake matt.Blake@molevalley.gov.uk if you would like a full copy of Cllr. Kendrick's speech.

Stephen Cooksey, our Mole Valley District Council Leader, has highlighted the £11.9 million from the Government which will be made available through Action Surrey for energy advice to low-income households living in hard to heat homes. Residents can go online for more information or call 0800 783 2503. Measures such as loft insulation, underfloor insulation and solar panels are discussed.

More housing support has been made available in partnership with "Transform Housing" in Mole Valley. Together with three other E. Surrey Councils, funding has been made available to help purchase two one-bedroom flats for homeless or vulnerable local residents. The total cost was £544,000 of which Mole Valley made a Housing Capital Grant Allocation of £136,000.

National Asylum Dispersal: The Home Office announced earlier this year its intention to review geographic distribution of Asylum seekers so as to relieve pressure on the limited number of Local Authorities that

currently host such accommodation. Most Asylum Seekers are unable to pay for their own housing, are unable to claim benefits and are not allowed to work. The Home Office has provided regional targets and for the S.E. that is 7,200 by December 2023. The allocation proposed for MVDC by the S.E. Migration Partnership is 68 people, a 0.94 % share of the regional target.

The Creation of Warm Hubs: these are spaces where residents can visit to warm up, get a warm drink and receive energy and debt advice from trained specialists. The service is open to everyone, but is particularly beneficial to residents in hard to heat homes, those who are isolated or those worried about bills. A network of such Hubs is envisaged, so suggestions for suitable places plus the names of some willing volunteers in the area will be needed. If you could help in any way such as by identifying a suitable place or by offering your help, please could you get in touch with Irene.eynott@surreycc.gov.uk to find out more.

And now a note from Clarion, the group responsible for building the new homes just off Upper Fairfield Road. They would like to tell all concerned that there is a notice board at the entrance to the site, detailing hours of work and contact details such as the Site Manager, James Berwick, tel: 07714 181787. They are starting construction in early November and hope you will forward any comments to Courtney.palmer-jones@sunninghill.co.uk which is a "Considerate Constructors Scheme" body.

We have been contacted by formriverwatch@yahoo.com<formriverwatch@yahoo.com> to see if there are any people interested in monitoring, over one year, the untreated sewage spills from Dorking Sewage works. They are looking for volunteers to gather data on pollution sources and pollution. The person to write to is Mr. Nigel Bond.

If you are interested in attending a hearing session into the Draft Local Plan, Martyn Williams will be appearing at the Hearing into site allocations in Leatherhead that will take place in the Council Chamber at Pippbrook on Wednesday 26th October, starting at 9.30

Finally, at our AGM on Monday 17th we were treated to a fascinating talk by Simon Ritchie on the history of the Ordnance Survey. Simon gave a number of references for those interested in further reading on the subject :

Simons speech notes : <https://goblimey.com/courses/trig.points.pdf>

Bench marks website: <https://www.bench-marks.org.uk/>

Trig points website: <https://trigpointing.uk/>

The Kinder Scout mass trespass: <https://www.prints-online.com/mass-trespass-kinder-scout-4458573.html>

James Walker Tucker Hiking: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2019/may/10/james-walker-tucker-hiking>

Books : Mercator: The man who Mapped the Planet by Nicholas Crane, pub. Orion 2002

Map of a Nation by Rachel Hewitt, pub. Granta 2010

On the Map by Simon Garfield, pub. Profile books 2012

TV: All BBC 4: Mapping the Nation; The Beauty of Maps; Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession; Science and Islam;

Our next meeting will be in **February** 2023-date to be confirmed

Thank you all for your support,

Caroline Brown (Chairman)

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