



### Bulletin for the end of November 2022

Dear Members,

There is no overriding piece of news for this Bulletin as I write on 17<sup>th</sup>, but lots of pieces of smaller weight.

1. Possible new school: Planning Application MV/2022/1849 refers to a scheme put forward by developers Bowman and Kirkland to develop the site left vacant by Chalfont Nurseries on the Reigate Road out of Dorking next to Punchbowl Lane. It is for a SEND school, or a School for Special Needs and disabilities. Most of the Letters of Representation are ardently in favour of this plan which represents an improvement on the one submitted two years ago. It seems that there is a severe shortage of places for children with autism etc. in Surrey, with the result they either get no provision at all or have to travel very long distances. However, there is also a considerable number of letters which point out the traffic problems in both the Lane and on the Reigate Road. The closing date for comments is 1<sup>st</sup> December.

2. New Trains: From Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, Leatherhead gains an extra train to Waterloo at 7.56, arriving at 8.48 and calling at all stations. In the evening two additional services will operate, the first departing at 17.39 and arriving in Leatherhead at 18.19. The second departs at 18.09 pm and arrives at 18.49. These trains only run Monday to Friday and do not stop at Earlsfield, Raynes Park or Motspur park.

Southern Rail is also putting on an extra train in the morning leaving at 5.45, going via Mitcham and getting into Victoria at 6.45. It does not stop at Ewell East, Wandsworth Common or Battersea Park. Full Timetables can be found on each of their websites.

3. The Leatherhead Theatre. I invite you to have a good look at what our theatre is providing over the Christmas period and beyond. First of all, there is the traditional offering of a pantomime – Snow White from 17 to 30 December – but also other events like our local Moodswing Jazz Band on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Buddy Holly on 25<sup>th</sup> November and on 10<sup>th</sup> December “Rat Pack” live Christmas party. <<https://theleatherheadtheatre.com>>

4. As you may already know, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is re-drawing parliamentary constituency boundaries in order to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP. (NB this is completely separate from the work undertaken by the .Local Government Boundary Commission for England where Bookham and Fetcham have already expressed some disquiet).

A secondary consultation period, including regional hearings, was conducted between 22 February and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022. A map reflecting this is now published on the consultation website [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) This final consultation ends on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and is the last opportunity to make your views known. The MVDC website has been updated to reflect what the revised proposals will mean for the parliamentary constituency boundaries within the MV area.

5. The LRA spoke directly to the Government Inspector, Ms. R. Barrett, in September and October in order to answer her questions about the Local Plan. We are unlikely to hear her reactions to this plan (which does, of course, include the whole of M.V., not just Leatherhead), until late in January.

6. Mole Valley Council has now decided on a firm, Allen Scott, to draw up the plans for the Riverside Park, first brought to our attention in about 2015. It is based on being able to park in the Leisure Centre grounds and then walking through to Bridge Street. The new firm will need to be aware that some of the islands in the river are privately owned. But, no doubt, it will provide a pleasant walk into town when it is finished.

I should add here that I am still chasing your ideas for the improvement of Leatherhead with our Councillors and have not given up on the job!

7. Traditional start to Christmas: On 3<sup>rd</sup> December in front of Sainsbury's and Costa Coffee, the Christmas Tree will be lit up at 4.00 pm. This will be accompanied by carols sung by various choirs from Leatherhead.

8. After the demise of the Leatherhead and Ashted Local (aka "Look Local"), a new community magazine and business directory has sprung up, called "Leatherhead & Ashted Pages." It aims to cover a very wide area, not only our familiar N. Mole Valley, but also Cobham, Oxshott, Esher, Claygate, Weybridge and Hersham. Our version should have arrived in Oct or early Nov. It had a picture of Gravel Hill on the front. If you did not receive it, either I or the Editor, Richard Milbourn, would like to know. Email: [editor@carnahpublications.com](mailto:editor@carnahpublications.com)

9. Good news: as before there will be free parking in Leatherhead on the 3 Saturdays before Christmas, and there will also be two shopping events in Leatherhead; a) on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. from 1pm to 7 pm in the Swan Centre and b) on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. from 10 – 4 pm in both the High Street and the Swan Centre, a Food Market based on French and world cooking.

Thank you for all the support you are able to give to our meetings and activities.

I will finish by wishing you all a happy and, hopefully, warm Christmas.

Caroline Brown Chairman (19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022).

