

## Minutes of the Open Meeting of the LRA on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

27 members and non-members attended.

1. Apologies received from Paula Sabine and Paul Sutherland-Waite
2. The Chairman reported that the recent "Litter-Pick" had been very successful with some 20 large bags of litter collected.
3. The Chairman then delivered her report (copy available on the LRA website)
4. The Chairman then asked Martyn Williams to say a few words about the Transform Leatherhead meeting he had attended earlier.

MW noted that the LRA are an officially acknowledged consultee for such meetings and this reinforces the point made by CB in her speech that it is important that a successor LRA Chairman is found, who can ensure the future of the LRA and the important role it plays.

MW reported that the meeting involved representatives of the development partners: MVDC and Kier Property, and an independent consultancy, commissioned to review and critique the proposals.

The draft proposals tabled followed similar principles to those seen in previous iterations of the project and full details will be made available to residents when the public consultation is launched shortly.

MW then took questions from the floor-

- Do the developers know that McDonalds are due to open in Church Street? MW said that this had been mentioned and the developers appeared to be aware of it
  - Do they know that the theatre auditorium is Grade II listed and have they considered the impact of any entertainment offering on its viability? MW confirmed that this had been discussed.
  - Who are Kier Property? MW replied they are a long-established company with expertise in this area.
  - Will young people be consulted? MW said that he had heard at the meeting that schools and youth groups would be specifically consulted.
  - What about new health services as the present GP surgery facilities will not be able to cope with the planned new housing? MW replied there is provision for community use on Bull Hill in the draft Local Plan, which could include these services.
5. Hilary Porter passed round details of the meeting she is holding in the Institute on 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm where she will be seeking to establish what those with special needs, disabilities and inability to access the internet will want to see out of the Transform Leatherhead project.
  6. David Stoves then presented an interesting talk on Scams and how to spot them, so you don't become a victim. He gave details of organisations to report scams to and the Chairman will include this information in the next bulletin.  
To illustrate the dangers, a member of the audience played a recording of dialogue that appeared to be Boris Johnson apologising for not attending the meeting of the Leatherhead Residents' Association, but which had in fact been generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  7. The meeting closed at approx. 21.00