

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2006**

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



MAY ELECTIONS.

We are very pleased to say that all three of your MRA candidates were successful in their respective wards, comfortably winning their places to represent you on Elmbridge Council. We are obviously delighted at this result and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who voted for MRA candidates and to offer a big thank-you to our many helpers for delivering leaflets, sitting at polling stations, etc. The voting figures are set out in the right-hand column below.

However, the election results were not so good for some of our colleagues in neighbouring Residents Associations, since 5 of them lost their seats. The 60-seat Council now consists of: Residents Associations 25 seats; Conservatives 26 seats; Lib. Dems. 8 seats; Independents 1 seat – in other words a ‘hung’ council. Prior to the elections the Council has been run by the Residents Associations – and is **now officially recognised as one of the six best-run Councils in the country**. Following the elections the Council will be run by the Conservatives as a minority administration.

ORANGE PHONE MAST

About a year ago Orange applied to erect two 15-metre mobile phone masts in East Molesey - one by the Mole behind Aldersgrove and another near Esher Road. A large number of residents objected, saying that a more sensible place was on the Police Sports grounds at Imber Court – well away from most houses. The police initially refused but later agreed to this use.

This changed the complexion of the problem and Orange then said that erecting 30-metre mast on the sports ground would allow sufficient coverage to make further 15-metre masts unnecessary – and other operators could use their mast. Your MRA councillors backed this plan rather than have a multitude of 15-metre masts all over Molesey and Orange was given permission.

However, the really big advantage is that, subject to final agreement with the Metropolitan Police, every other mobile phone company (and there are four others) can now be compelled to use the big Orange mast unless they can produce very convincing technical reasons why the Orange mast is not suitable. Your MRA councillors feel that the opportunity to avoid a rash of 15-metre masts spreading across Molesey made the decision to accept the 30-metre Orange mast well worthwhile and the best decision in the long term.

MOLESEY MAYOR

MRA Councillor Vic Eldridge has been elected by the Council as the next Mayor of Elmbridge. Vic has been a longstanding MRA Councillor and we are sure he will be an excellent Mayor and a credit to the Borough of Elmbridge. We offer him our warm congratulations and best wishes for his spell as Elmbridge’s first citizen and figurehead.

DANGEROUS JUNCTION

The MRA committee remains extremely concerned about the dangerous junction in West Molesey where Molesey Road meets Walton Road. There have been a number of serious accidents here and MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has been pressing the Conservative-led Surrey County Council (SCC) for safety improvements here for over a year.

Although SCC has refused to install a roundabout (our preferred solution), they did agree to keep the tree-lined approach from Walton clear and install additional warning signs. We are still waiting for action.

Following further pressure from Mike and Ernest Mallett, SCC has now assured Mike (once again!) that this action will be completed shortly – hopefully before you get this newsletter.

ELECTION RESULTS

ELMBRIDGE COUNCIL

Molesey East

Popham, Tony – (MRA)	1088
Elmer, Christopher – (Con)	602
Chinnery, J – (Raving Looney)	98

Molesey North

Selleck, Stuart (MRA)	981
Riddle, Jane – (Con)	456
Sturgis, Alistair – (Lib. Dem)	167
Drummond, Rita – (Lab)	98

Molesey South

Donaldson, Ian – (MRA)	913
McGrath, James – (Con)	320
Reid, Andrea – (Lab)	190
Chambers, Philip – (Soc. Lab)	66

LOCAL GOOD CAUSES

Molesey Residents Association has a policy of spending any money it has (above that necessary to meet its expenses) on local needs.

Hence we have been able to help out some local needy causes.

We have contributed £500 to the St Peter’s Church Tower Appeal; £500 to the Molesey Second World War Memorial Association and £200 to the Barn Theatre Roof Appeal. All these causes were very grateful for our help.

We believe this is the sort of thing a local amenity association such as ours should be doing – as well as representing Molesey’s interests at Elmbridge Council.

MOLESEY CARE

Molesey Care is the local charity that helps the elderly, disabled people or anybody in need who wants help with getting to doctor's or hospital appointments, shopping, hairdressing or library, etc.

Volunteers willing to help for a few hours a week are needed to man the phone and liaise with helpers. Drivers are especially welcome (petrol paid for). If you can help please ring Judith Dixon - 8979-7509.

CHANDLERS FIELD SITE

On this West Molesey school site a planning application was made to build on that part of the site behind Molesey Hospital with an entry road from Approach Road on the corner near the Hospital entrance. MRA Cllrs. Mike Axton and Ian Donaldson strongly opposed this application on many grounds including excessive density of development (18 flats and 15 houses) and the dangerous proposed entry point. Also, it would occupy the ground where Molesey Hospital would need to expand.

In the light of these objections the Council refused the application but the developer went to appeal and, unbelievably, the government appointed inspector has now overturned the Council's decision.

Elsewhere on the same site the new primary school has been completed and Surrey CC will be demolishing the old youth club and junior school buildings in Ray Road and, we expect, will apply to build about 48 houses on that site.

POOL ROAD PLANNING

Good news on the application we mentioned in the last newsletter to build 18 flats (involving an extra floor) at Quadrant House in West Molesey. MRA Cllr. Mike Axton investigated this and raised detailed planning objections. The application has now been withdrawn but it is always possible that revised plans will be submitted. We will watch developments closely.

BOOK OF MOLESEY

Great success – so far 300 copies of this delightful book full of photographs and written by Molesey's own history expert, Rowland Baker, have been ordered. If you have not yet placed your order, contact Ernest Mallett at 20, Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF or 8979-6446. Pre-publication price is held down to £15, but hurry - after the initial deliveries in June the price is likely to rise to the publishers RRP of £18.75. There is no better book on Molesey. We recommend it!

MARIE CURIE

You will be aware the MRA funds and plants daffodils every year around Molesey. In the Spring we ask residents if they would like to remember a friend or family member on our memorial boards at the planting sites. Donations made are then doubled by the MRA and this year Marie Curie Cancer Care received £480 and Alzheimer's £100. Some committee members and councillors also stood outside Tesco's on a freezing cold day to help collect another £300 for Marie Curie. Thanks to all!

MOLESEY CHARITIES

Councillors and local people administer two charities in Molesey - one in East and one in West, each giving away about £900 per year to the elderly or disadvantaged or to organisations set up to help these groups. The East Molesey charity typically helps organisations such as Molesey Care, Homestart and elderly persons clubs, while the West Molesey charity often gives money to elderly persons at Christmas time.

If you are elderly or connected with an organisation set up with these aims in mind and you need help for yourself, an organisation or a friend, please contact Ernest Mallett on 8979-6446. Your personal details will never be published and you will receive a sympathetic response.

COUNTY CLLR. CORNER

County Councillors are encouraged to recommend grants for local organisations in their areas. Last year MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett successfully recommended grants for the following: a borough-wide Youth Service worker; funding to allow an advice centre to continue to operate in Molesey helping young people with social matters including sexual advice and pregnancy (otherwise this service would have moved to Epsom!); barriers on the Walton Road 'S' bend near St Peter's Church to protect pedestrians and occupants of Rupert Court houses; St Paul's history event and, (co-operating with Tim Oliver – East Molesey County Cllr.), funding for a replacement roof for the Molesey Junior Football Club buildings at the Wilderness.

POTHoles AND ROADS

Yes, we know the problem! MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett does not want to make excuses for Surrey County Council as potholes and road repairs need to be fixed. However, some of the difficulties have been due to Surrey Highways section being twice re-organised during the last year and some mystery involving the working of the contract Surrey has with its main contractor. The majority of county councillors are highly dissatisfied about road maintenance and delays to work. Special meetings are being called to solve these problems and Ernest will be at these meetings battling for Molesey.

MEMBERSHIP – 1 YEAR OR 5?

Please see our membership slip on the printed version of this newsletter. It is very helpful if you use this. It is even more helpful if you sign up for 5 years – it avoids us calling on you and guarantees you there will be no fee increase for the next 5 years. Many members have already decided to go for the 5-year membership. However, please opt for whichever period suits you best.