

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2007**

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



Car Park Charging

We much regret that charging will begin in Molesey on 26th February.

The Conservative administration now running Elmbridge Council has decided to increase the charge from 40p to 50p per hour before it has even been introduced in Molesey!

The Liberal Democrats sided with the Conservatives to push this through, provided that Claygate was kept at the 'village' rate of only 25p because Claygate small businesses would suffer if their charge were 50p – exactly the same argument consistently put by MRA Cllr. Mike Axton for 25p in Molesey – of course, this was refused!

Another proposal was to charge in all car parks, including Sadlers Ride (Hurst Park) in Molesey and Cowey Sale in Walton. Only strong opposition from the R.A. councillors prevented this.

To help Molesey traders, MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has long made the case that the yellow lines outside the shops opposite the Europa pub should be removed as they are unnecessary on that short stretch of wide road and would help traders there. We are assured that these proposals are going to be looked at - after the charges are introduced, but not before!

MRA Cllr. Nigel Cooper is hoping to have a scheme introduced whereby residents living very close to the car park could obtain a permit for longer evening and morning parking hours.

This Association truly regrets the introduction of car park charges in Molesey – a really backward step.

COUNCIL TAX

At the time of writing, we don't know what the tax levels will be for 2007.

We expect the Conservative administration at Elmbridge to bring in a zero increase in the Elmbridge council tax. No doubt this will be trumpeted at election time, but very little difference will be made to the overall bill, since only about one sixth of the tax collected goes to Elmbridge. So, on a Band D house, this represents a saving of about 18p per week. And, for this, we have car parking charges and possibly only a fortnightly wheelie bin collection in future.

Jolly Boatman/Station site

It is important to remember that these two sites are really one entity, although the smaller Jolly Boatman part receives most of the publicity.

As we write, the developer, GladeDale, has made no planning application, but one is promised. How often have we heard that before?

MRA held a public meeting toward the end of last year to discuss the issue and the overwhelming feeling was that the developer's proposals were unacceptable and any permission should be in line with the Planning Brief (which states only 25% of the total site should be used for residential development with none on the Jolly Boatman part).

The ideal solution would be for the Jolly Boatman site to be completely open and landscaped, but since the Planning Brief recognises that some minor development could be acceptable there, this may be impracticable unless Elmbridge were to buy the site. This would cost a large amount of money and may well land Elmbridge in court over the resulting compulsory purchase order. All this would be very expensive and would impact heavily on your council tax.

Be assured, however, that this Association is completely opposed to the developer's proposals and will do all it can to defeat them.

We are not influenced by the developer's threats that the site will stay in its present mess for many years if their ideas are not accepted.

Better that than an inappropriate scheme to be with us for ever!

We shall be holding our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
in **MOLE HALL,**
WEST MOLESEY
on **FRIDAY 23rd MARCH**
starting at **8pm.**

All members are welcome and non-members may join at the door – £3 per household. Come along and hear what's been going on over the past year – and afterwards chat with committee and councillors over free refreshments.

THE BLUE LAMP

Back in 1998 Mrs Hazel Banting formed a group to ensure that Molesey Police Station stayed open.

This was a ground-breaking move, now followed in other places, to prevent the closure of the police station. She, together with her band of volunteers, after appropriate training, now work together to run the police station counter.

They now need more volunteers, especially younger people.

If you can help, or want to learn more what's involved, please ring Hazel Banting on 020-8979-1715.

RIVERSIDE SEAT

During May, MRA will be installing a bench seat by the Thames in memory of one of our founder members, Florence Gillham, who died last year. Florence was a very dedicated and feisty lady who was responsible for a lot of the hard work put in to the founding the MRA way back in 1965.

5 YEAR SUBS

Nearly 300 of our members have opted to pay £15 for a 5-year MRA membership, avoiding yearly visits from us and guaranteeing no fee increases for them for 5 years.

Better for them and better for us – why not join them when your subscription's due?

Postal Votes

Anyone can have a postal vote – you have only to ask for it. So, if you are not going to be available for voting on May 3rd, apply to the Electoral Services Section at Elmbridge Council well before 18th April. Don't miss the opportunity to vote – and we hope this will be for your MRA candidate!

Orange Phone Mast

This large mast – to be erected on the Police sports ground at Imber Court – needs to be subject to an agreement between the police and the various mobile phone companies to ensure that all the phone companies can share it, hence avoiding a proliferation of smaller masts across Molesey.

Discussions have been protracted, but we now hope that a satisfactory solution is about to be announced.

Recycling

The present Conservative administration at Elmbridge put forward plans to change the collection of your wheelie bin from weekly to fortnightly. This is supposed to improve recycling rates (although how is not made clear).

This raises questions about smell and flies in the summer and raises the possibility of people dumping what they can't get in their bin.

Fortunately, after much opposition, this idea has been dropped for the time being, as the entire Borough does not yet have recycling boxes for glass. Perhaps the real reason was money?

New History Society

Following the very successful Molesey historical exhibition at St Paul's Church, a group of residents are planning to form a Molesey Local History Society. This is not an MRA group, but we wish them every success.

The inaugural meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday 20th March in St Paul's Church Parish Room. For further details, contact Roger Day on 020-8979-4397

Molesey Books

During 2006 MRA arranged and financed a reprint of 'The Book of Molesey' – a record of Molesey's history through the years, written by Molesey historian, Roland Baker.

We had 650 copies printed, which have all sold and, since there were many enquiries for more copies, we ordered another reprint and have so far sold another 100 copies.

This is a really absorbing book with many photographs of old Molesey and explanations of what has gone on in Molesey over the years.

We have also financed a reprint of Roland Baker's second book – 'Thameside Molesey'.

This book covers the history of Molesey's relationship with the Thames – covering such topics as the four bridges across the Thames, Fred Karno's activities, the burning of the Hurst Park grandstand by suffragettes and the history of Molesey Cricket and Boat Clubs.

Both books are available at £15 each from Ernest Mallett at 20, Walton Road or 020-8979-6446.

These books make excellent Easter, birthday/special occasion presents.

Faraday Road

Elmbridge Housing Trust is expected to put in a planning application to demolish eight houses on the corners of Faraday Road and Down Street in West Molesey and replace them with five blocks of houses and flats. This would result in a development of far too high a density which is not designed to blend with the surrounding properties. MRA councillors will be looking to improve this situation.

Just round the corner in Down Street your MRA councillors have long been campaigning to arrange a young children's play area on Housing Trust land. It now looks as if the finance is available and it should shortly come to fruition.

Molesey Boat Club

MRA has always supported one of Britain's most successful rowing clubs. But its very success has attracted many more members.

This means that more boats will have to be stored on site.

MRA Cllrs. Nigel Cooper and Mike Axton have brokered a deal between Elmbridge Council and the Boat Club whereby the children's play area next to the club will be improved, enlarged and moved to be next to the river, leaving an extra space for boat storage. The Boat Club has agreed both to make a significant financial contribution to the refurbishment of the new play area as well as paying rent for the extra land leased to it.

Daffodils - 2007 Appeal

Each year we make an appeal to coincide with the flowering of the many daffodils we have planted around Molesey.

We know that the flowering of the daffodils brings great comfort to many who would like to remember a spouse, parent, child or sorely missed relative. We will put their names and yours on memorial boards around Molesey in return for a donation of anything from £3 upwards. The MRA aims to double all donations. The total is then sent on to a grateful Marie Curie Cancer Care Fund or is split with other charities if donors so wish.

If you would like to support the scheme this year please send details and donations to Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF and make out cheques to Molesey Residents Association. We will do the rest – Thank You.